

Dear Franklin Students and Parents -

As we head into the summer, the English Department at FSI wanted to share our thinking on summer reading and provide some guidelines on what we expect from you all. The purpose of this letter is to provide 1) our rationale for asking students to spend time reading over the summer, and 2) a list of suggested texts for you to choose from. Please feel free to reach out to your ELA teacher if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

The WHYS of Summer Reading:

- ★ Have you heard of the summer slide? The statistics on what happens when students do not read over the summer are pretty scary:
 - Children who do not read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement.
 - Reading loss is cumulative. Students who do not read during the summer could be three years below grade level by fifth grade simply from not reading during the summer. This cumulative loss makes it very difficult to close the achievement gap that exists during the school year alone.
 - Two thirds of the 9th grade achievement gap can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities as early as elementary school.
 - Summer reading loss has been identified as one of the three major obstacles to get students to reading proficiency.

- ★ Research also shows that people who read gain great benefits, such as lower stress levels, higher degrees of empathy & cultural awareness, and are able to sleep better. Summer reading is just another way to make your summer break THAT much more relaxing.

What You Can Do To Prevent Summer Slide:

- ★ Visit the Public Library: If you do not have a library card, the summer months are a perfect time to get one. Put trips to the library on the calendar so that your family gets there regularly and can check out new book titles of interest.
- ★ Commit to Family Reading Time: Read the newspaper or magazines, bring books to the beach, start a family book club, or read about a topic that interests you.
- ★ Build Regular Reading Time into Summer Schedules: You will quickly develop a summer schedule that will easily stick for the summer. Make sure that it involves a plan of when you will read daily. Summer is not the time to track reading minutes or be required to read certain books. Commit to a time daily to enjoy your reading - that is what is most important!
- ★ Read Books Out Loud: Whether you read a picture book aloud with a younger sibling or pick a chapter book to read aloud and discuss with your whole family, this is one of the best ways to promote reading. Being read aloud to is enjoyable, regardless of age, and should not stop once a student gets to middle school.

Summer Reading for Students at FSI:

Your English teachers are asking you to read or listen to two to three texts from our suggested reading list. If you have a different text that you would like to read, by all means! Just email your teacher the title with a reason why (example reasons: my friend suggested it, we got it at the bookstore, it was already at my house, I really wanted to read it ...).

Best, Your English Teachers

