

Watervliet High School Summer Reading

**“The more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary,
and comprehension.”**

(National Reading Panel’s 2000 Report)

Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to stay connected to literature, to enhance literacy skills developed during the school year, and to gain knowledge. Plus, it's fun!

The New York State Education Department has long encouraged students to read during the summer. State Education Commissioner Dr. Davis Steiner has said, *“Children need to keep reading through the summer so they don’t have to catch up on their reading skills when they return to school in the fall. When children read throughout the summer, they become better readers and better learners. I urge families to take advantage of the free reading program offered this summer at all of the State’s public libraries.”*

With these goals in mind, the Watervliet High School English Department provides a summer reading list for each grade level. These lists include timeless classics, popular picks, books thematically related to other books the students may have read, and titles connected to specific English courses. We would ask that each student will choose two books from the list for his/her next grade level. Students will be informed of these assignments before the school year ends.

Teachers in the high school English Department are avid, enthusiastic readers, who understand the power of books to change lives. We are more than willing to answer questions about books and to recommend specific titles to students. We look forward to discussing summer reading books with the students in the fall. To that end, we have included a list of written assignments that students may choose from to be completed by the first week of school.

The utmost care has been taken to prepare lists with a large variety of books appropriate for high school students, but parents are urged to review the titles with their children and make choices as a family. Some of the titles are available at the high school and can be checked out over the summer. Also, they are available at the local public libraries and at Barnes and Noble in Colonie Center or Borders in Crossgates mall.