

CHICOPEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents:

The English Department thanks you for your active participation in your children's education, both in and outside of school. We are fortunate to teach in a community where parents understand the value of literacy and learning. This summer will be our fifth year of required summer reading, and we are pleased to offer your children choices that are interesting and rich with life experiences.

The purpose of summer reading is to stress the importance of regular, lifelong reading in a person's life. Research shows that reading, in any form, helps increase vocabulary, writing skills, concentration, and information processing speed. Reading also helps us to perform well in a wide variety of subjects, develop an ability to understand how other people think and feel, and acquire the ability to be more flexible in our thinking and more open to new ideas. In short, reading improves our quality of life, both inside and outside of school. Chicopee High School English teachers designed this specific assignment to encourage Chicopee High School students to make connections between the world, themselves, and the literature that they read.

We have distributed the summer reading list and assignments to your children. Barnes & Noble, Borders, and the Chicopee Public Library, will have books available for students. In the past, many parents have been able to order used copies online at a fraction of the retail prices.

In addition to reading the books, students will be responsible for a reading log and will take a test in September. The summer reading log is due when students return to school in the fall. Summer reading testing will be held during the second week of school. Students will be allowed to use their reading logs on the test, and three student essays per grade will be selected for the Summer Reading Essay Award.

We hope that you continue to encourage your children to read widely and often for both work and pleasure, as this is one of the largest contributors to success in school. Please talk with your children about the importance of reading and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pietrzykowski
English Department Supervisor