

## South Colonie High School Summer Reading

**“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” -Joseph Addison**

“The New York State Education Department has long encouraged students to read during the summer. Summer reading provides an excellent opportunity for students to stay connected to literature and to enhance literacy skills developed throughout the school year. Studies show that reading for enjoyment is a practice that helps all children increase their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.” (<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov>)

Reading is an integral part of success regardless of one’s direction in life. The South Colonie School District believes summer reading can be enjoyable as well as valuable. English teachers are avid and enthusiastic readers who want to instill a love of literature as a recreational activity. Thus, the English department has taken great care in compiling reading lists for each grade level that allow students to not only select literature that is integral to the school district’s existing curriculum, but also appeals to a variety of interests. Through students’ exploration of literature, they will continue to develop and hone their skills learned over the course of the school year.

Students are required to read two books over the course of the summer. A list of suggested titles for each grade level are distributed to students and posted on the district website. Students may choose from a variety of genres, as well as reading levels, to fulfill the summer reading requirement. Parent(s)/Guardians are encouraged to review the reading list to be aware of the titles and authors and to encourage and help guide their children’s reading.

The New York State Library’s Statewide Summer Reading Program offers another way to engage students in summer reading. It involves storytelling, music, creative arts, and performances – helping students to enjoy reading and to maintain and improve their reading levels over the summer. There is no cost for this program available at your local library. Go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/> and click on *Statewide Summer Reading* for more information.

“Summer Reading at New York libraries gives teachers and parents a proven learning tool that engages and excites youngsters as it raises literacy levels. This is a critically important experience that keeps children learning--and engaged in the wonderful act of reading—even when the school year is over.” State Education Commissioner David Steiner.