

Dear Trinity Students and Parents,

Greetings! This past year has been a pleasure, with much progress for our Upper School English students. Though we feel that the summer is an important time for students and teachers to “recharge their batteries,” research shows that students who do not continue to read over the summer tend to regress academically.

Our Summer Reading program attempts to balance Trinity academic rigor with the need for a vacation. To do this, we are making some small changes.

Like last year, we are only requiring students to do one project (a creative one) over the summer. However, to add an element of fun, students will choose one of their books from a provided list of over thirty novels, mostly “best-sellers.” This change blends classic literature with books that students will probably find more accessible and enjoyable.

**What to do for Summer Reading:**

**1). Find the required books for the grade level and class students are registered for.** Grades 9, 10, and 12 are required to read two assigned books and a third book from the English “Choice List.” Grade 11 is required to read one assigned book, a book of their choice from the English “Choice List,” and a book of their choosing from the AP European History list. Grade-level guidelines are provided, but parents are urged to use their own discretion when students select from the “Choice List.”

**2). Prepare a Creative Project over the book from the English “Choice List” only.** Students should pick a project suiting their interests and talents. Students are also required to do an oral presentation of their project the first week of classes. Guidelines are available at the school website.

**3). Write an in-class essay over one of the remaining two books shortly after classes start.** The essay prompt is provided in advance in the summer reading materials. Students will not know in advance which of the two books they will write about, so they should read both. Students may use their books (hopefully annotated), but no other supplemental materials, while writing their essay.

Furthermore, this year we are providing “Study Guides” for the literature books on the school website. These guides are intended to give students information that should help deepen their understanding.

The work is manageable with planning. Students should allow two weeks to work on the creative project. Students could read a literature book, then the “Choice book,” and then work on the creative project while reading the second literature book. They could count the total number of pages and divide it by the number of days before school starts to find out how much they need to read each day to finish on time. The longer they wait to start, the more they will have to read each day.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer,

Your TST Upper School English Teachers

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