

Summary of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in Reading for Students Enrolled in Reading and English for Grades 6-12

Following is a compilation of the expectations set forth in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Designed to ensure that students acquire the skills necessary for becoming literate citizens, the TEKS are the standards which guide instruction. To view the TEKS in their entirety, parents can visit the following web site:

www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/index.html

Students are expected to:

- expand vocabulary through reading.
- comprehend selections using a variety of strategies.
- establish and adjust purposes for reading such as to discover, to interpret, and to enjoy.
- draw upon their own backgrounds to provide connections with texts.
- read extensively and intensively for different purposes and in varied sources.
- read to increase their knowledge of their own culture, the culture of others, and the common elements across cultures.
- express and support responses to various types of texts.
- read critically to evaluate texts.
- analyze literary elements for their contributions to meaning in literary texts.



For more information contact your child's middle school reading or high school English teacher

or

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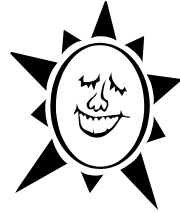
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Northside Independent School District

Summer Reading



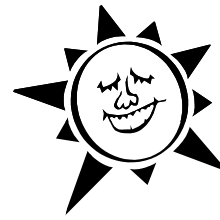
English Language Arts and Reading Grades 6-12 Regular Education Classes



"In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot or will not read."

—S. I. Hayakawa

English Honors/AP students have a separate summer reading assignment. Please contact your child's school or web site.



Why should students read during the summer?

English and reading teachers in Northside work extremely hard during the school year to encourage students to develop a lifelong interest in reading and writing. Research shows that students who do not engage in cognitive activities during the summer lose one to three months of learning. However, summer reading not only helps students retain the skills they need to enjoy academic success but also offers them enriching experiences through books. Students who read during the summer are more likely to . . .

- maintain the fluency required for success on TAKS,
- learn of the resources provided by the public library,
- talk with family and friends about books,
- discover new interests or hobbies, and
- discover the enjoyment of reading.

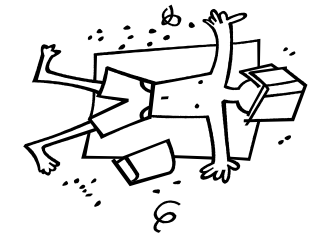
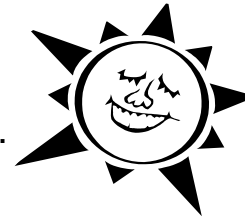
"No matter how busy you think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance."

—Atwood H. Townsend



Questions and Answers About Summer Reading for Students Enrolled in Regular Education Classes

**Students enrolled in the English Honors /AP program have a separate assignment. Contact your child's school or web site for English Honors/AP information.



Is there a specific list of titles from which students are required to choose?

Students enrolled in regular education classes are free to choose their books. However, a list of recommended titles is available on the NISD web site: www.nisd.net. Go to the secondary reading or English site. You may also get a copy from your child's school.

High school English Honors/AP students have separate reading lists determined by their campuses. Middle school English honors students may read a book of their choice.

Will students have any other requirements beyond reading a book of their choice?

Regular education students may earn **extra credit** in their middle school reading and high school English classes by completing one of the following assignments as a way to share their book with the class:

- Thesis-Trifold
- Book Talk
- Literary Circle
- Travel Brochure
- Eight-Page Notebook
- Movie Poster Review
- Book Jacket
- Thinking Maps™

Individual teachers may offer additional choices of assignment.

Middle and high school English Honors/AP students will have a required assignment. See the campus information.

Can students read more than one book?

Students are encouraged to read many books. However, only one extra credit grade will be awarded for summer reading.

What kind of grade will my child receive for his/her summer reading project?

Regular education students will earn an extra-credit grade in their middle school reading or high school English class.

Middle and high school English Honors/AP students will have a required assignment.

How will my child's grade be affected if he/she does not read a book and complete a project?

Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills and enjoy a selection of their choice. Regular education students will not be penalized if they do not complete the summer reading assignment.

Will my child have an opportunity to receive a grade for his summer reading project if he completes it at the end of the grading period?

Summer reading will be assessed during the second week of school. Additional extra-credit opportunities are provided at the discretion of the teacher.

What if my child is reluctant to read over the summer?

The lists of middle and high school titles have been assembled with students' interests in mind. You may also talk with a librarian about your child in order to get personalized recommendations. Also, you can encourage your child to read by modeling that you are a reader, too. You might even decide to read the same book as your child so that you can discuss it with him/her. By modeling that you value reading, you will encourage your child to take a more active interest in reading.

What are some helpful strategies that my child can use so that he/she gets the most from summer reading?

Effective readers are active readers. Below are some strategies students may use while reading.

Before reading:

- Set aside time and find a quiet place to enjoy your book.
- Set short-term reading goals, for example, five pages a day or a chapter a day.
- Preview what you are going to read by looking at the book cover, chapter titles, headings, illustrations, captions, etc.
- Think about what you already know about the subject of the book.
- Be willing to be a little bit confused as you begin reading; even the very best readers

struggle to make sense of a book as they begin reading.

During reading:

- Make predictions as you read and then see if they come true.
- When you reach the end of the chapter, stop and think about what has happened in the book. Make connections to your life, the world, other books, etc.
- Visualize what you are reading; think of the book as a movie in your head.
- Pose questions as you read.
- Talk with others about your book.
- Keep a reader's notebook, logging your thoughts, reactions, questions, predictions, etc.

After reading:

- Write a final response in your reader's notebook, reflecting on what you liked and/or disliked about the book.
- Consider whether or not you would recommend the book to someone else.
- Make personal connections to the characters and themes of the book.

"There's something special about people who are interested in the printed word. They are a species all their own—learned, kind, knowledgeable and human."

—Nathan Pine

