

Elk Grove High School  
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A RECOGNIZED  
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Parents,

15 May 2009

We hear it all the time in our classrooms: "I like reading more when I get to decide what to read." Summer offers a wonderful opportunity for students to do what they ask to do during the school year: Choose what they are reading. Reading over the summer is one of the best ways for students to continue to grow as learners and thinkers. To that end, we strongly encourage you to support your child in the pursuit of summer reading. The New York Public Library ([www.nypl.org/branch/books/booklists.cfm](http://www.nypl.org/branch/books/booklists.cfm)) offers extensive book lists organized by "Adult Readers," "Teen Readers," and "Younger Readers." Furthermore, your local librarians are a great resource and libraries, of course, provide books, magazines, and newspapers, for free.

Additionally, students in freshman and sophomore honors, and junior and senior Advanced Placement English have required summer reading assignments. If your child is enrolled in any of these courses, please consult the enclosed information to assist them in completing these assignments. The required reading for honors and A.P. is as follows:

**Grade 9 – Freshman Honors English**

- Biography or autobiography chosen by student

**And one of the following:**

- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*Ordinary People* by Judith Guest  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

**Grade 10 – Sophomore AP World History**

*Cracking the AP World History Exam*, 2009 Edition. There are additional assignment for A.P. World History that have been distributed to students.

**Grade 10 – Sophomore Honors English**

*Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell

**Grade 11 – AP Language**

*On Writing Well* by William Zinsser

*How Not to Write* by William Safire

There are additional assignments for A.P. U.S. History that have been distributed to students.

**(Students will read and annotate the Safire, and simply read the Zinsser)**

**Grade 12 – AP English Literature**

*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

All of this information is available on the school website.

If students are not enrolled in any of these courses, we still encourage them to read any of the above books, or to consult the sources detailed above and create their own summer reading program.

Regards,

Jennifer Firer  
English Fine Arts Division Head