Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Summer reading is an important component of student success. John B. King, Jr., Commissioner of the New York State Education Department has stated:

Statistics point to the disappointing loss of learning that takes place when young people are not in school during the summer. By providing summer reading programs . . . [we] can provide young people and their parents with the tools necessary to ensure year-long learning success and cultivate a love of reading.

Students are encouraged to read at least two books this summer, a fiction and a non-fiction text. Non-fiction books include: memoir, biography, and informational texts in subjects such as science, history, and travel. Increasing student reading of non-fiction texts is part of the new Common Core standards.

Students should spend time finding high-interest books for their voluntary selections. Please note, there are assigned titles for students entering English 12R, and all Honors and AP classes.

Resources for finding a voluntary selection include:

- [http://www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org)
- the librarians at the Port Jefferson Public Library (Young Adult Center: 631-507-5707)
- award winning book lists, such as the Alex Award, [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/alexawards/alexawards.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/alexawards/alexawards.cfm) and the Margaret A. Edwards Award, [https://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/margaretaedwards/ALA_print_layout_1_115137_115137.cfm](https://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/margaretaedwards/ALA_print_layout_1_115137_115137.cfm)
- students can refer to the lists of suggested titles that will be posted on the Port Jefferson School District website after June 19, 2012
- while students cannot borrow books from our school library, our Librarian, Mrs. LaSita, is also a resource for book ideas

In September, all secondary English teachers will begin the year with a project based on summer reading. To be adequately prepared, students are encouraged to write brief chapter summaries as they read. In the fall, students will have several weeks to complete an assignment under the guidance of a teacher.
In English 12R, and all Honors and Advanced Placement courses, there are assigned titles in addition to a voluntary choice book. Assigned books are available through your child’s current English Teacher (grades 8 – 11). Students must request titles from their teacher prior to June 18, 2012. Students must return borrowed books the first week of school in September.

These titles are assigned summer reading for students entering:

Grade 9 Honors - Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer
and a voluntary selection (fiction)

Grade 10 Honors - 1984, by George Orwell
and a voluntary selection (non-fiction)

Grade 11 Honors - The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
and a voluntary selection (fiction)

Grade 12R - One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,
by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
and a voluntary selection (non-fiction)

Grade 12 Honors - Three books:
1. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou
   and
2. The Sun Also Rises, by Ernest Hemingway
   and
3. a voluntary selection (non-fiction)

A.P. Literature (11) - Three books:
1. Tess of the d’Urbervilles, by Thomas Hardy
   and
2. The Things They Carried, by Tim O’Brien
   and
3. a voluntary selection (fiction)
A.P. Language (12) - Three books:
1. *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays*,
   by Hendry David Thoreau
   and
2. Select one:
   The World According to Garp,
   by John Irving (some mature content)
   OR
   Catch-22, by Joseph Heller
   and
3. a voluntary selection (non-fiction)

If you have any questions please speak to your child’s English teacher or contact Mrs. Hull, Director of ELA and Social Studies (email: mhull@portjeff.k12.ny.us or office phone: 791-4460).

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in September, well-rested and well-read.

The High School English Department