

SAN MARCOS ACADEMY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Assignment Objective - In order to maintain the level of academic rigor that will facilitate our students' success throughout high school and into college, SMA students are asked to read books over the summer. Empirical studies reveal that having young people read over the summer helps prevent learning loss, promotes critical thinking and ensures students begin the next school year with stronger academic success.

Assignment Requirements - This year we are asking students to choose their own book or books to read over the summer. The following are the requirements that are stipulated for this assignment:

1. Student will complete a **Book Choice Worksheet** to help identify books of interest. Student will use this worksheet to **conference** with current English teacher, review choices and approve **three** books of literary worth. *(Please note: New students may choose a book with help from parents and/or Book Choice Worksheet websites and email choice to grade level teacher or Mr. Weigand)*
3. Students should **ask parents**, teachers and/or peers for book recommendations.
4. Student must read **at least one** of these books over the summer.
5. The book must be of **appropriate length** based on student's reading level.
6. The book must contain subject matter that is **appropriate** for a Christian school.
7. The book must be an appropriate **genre**. No graphic novels or other picture books. Audio books and ebooks are acceptable with teacher approval.
8. Student **may read more than one book**. Multiple books and/or books from increasingly challenging genres will improve academic achievement.
9. Students will be expected to annotate as they read and identify specific passages throughout the book that reflect important elements such as *character, plot, setting, theme and figurative language*.
10. The **Summer Reading Analysis and Presentation Worksheet** will be provided to facilitate this process. This Analysis must be turned in to the student's next year English teacher at the beginning of the year.
11. Students will then use this Analysis to complete a **Presentation Assignment** which will be given **after** school starts and will be a major grade.
12. Students and parents who have **questions** or concerns throughout the summer may contact English teachers through the following **emails**:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Christa Strauss | straussc@smabears.org | Eng 2 Honors/ Eng 3 Reg & Honors |
| Vicki Boyer | boyerv@smabears.org | Eng 4 |
| Nathan Gaskey | gaskeyn@smabears.org | Eng 1 Regular and Honors |
| Karen Wyatt | wyattk@smabears.org | Eng 2 Regular |
| Bob Wiegand | wiegandb@smabears.org | Academic Dean |

Book Choice Worksheet

Name _____

Please answer the following questions in order to help you choose your book(s):

1. Identify two books that you have read in the past and appreciated:

- a. _____
b. _____

2. Identify two genres that you prefer:

- a. _____
b. _____

3. Identify two historical events, people or social issues that interest you:

- a. _____
b. _____

4. Identify two authors that you have read in the past and appreciated:

- a. _____
b. _____

Refer to the following websites to help find your book of choice:

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/>

Goodreads – books for college bound students:

https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/21804.101_Great_Books_Recommended_for_College_Bound_Readers

NPR – 100 best-ever-teen-novels:

<https://www.npr.org/2012/08/07/157795366/your-favorites-100-best-ever-teen-novels>

50 books to read in high school: <https://www.lexpublib.org/50BooksInHighschool>

Identify three books (with author) that you would like to read this summer:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____