

Why do Summer Reading?

The Essential Question: Why are students in English classes required to read over the summer at Luke M. Powers Catholic High School?

Summer Reading Program Objectives:

- To help students maintain reading and writing skills over the summer and avoid summer reading loss
- To prepare students for the next level of English curriculum and the college experience
- To encourage students to become lifelong learners

Parents and Students of PCHS:

At Powers Catholic, we believe that it is important to foster essential reading and writing skills over the summer to help students avoid summer reading loss, a documented and studied phenomenon often resulting in a loss of several months on standardized reading tests. Richard Allington, a professor of education at the University of Tennessee, compares a good summer reading program to athletic training when he said, "Virtually all human skills and proficiencies deteriorate without practice. Imagine an athlete who takes several months off from training. It will take weeks, if not months, of training to return to peak performance. The same is true with readers and their reading." (CBC Magazine: Perspectives 1). Over one hundred years of research supports the use of summer reading programs to help students hone their reading and writing skills.

What makes high school students successful in a summer reading program is when their parents engage in the text with them and ask them about what they are reading. We have provided a suggested reading schedule for each book at the regular and advanced levels of English to help facilitate time management of reading over the summer. If parents would speak with their students about what they are reading, asking them to summarize and discuss the text, students are more likely to remember what they read and be prepared for class discussion when in English class.

Most colleges and universities have moved to a required summer reading list for their incoming freshman to combat summer reading loss and to make sure their students are prepared to be avid readers from the day they walk through their doors. Our goal is to create the same kind of atmosphere at Powers Catholic where students learn that it is important to develop and maintain their reading and writing skills during the summer to make the transition back into school that much smoother. They will not only be prepared for the rigor of their chosen level of English, but they will also transition into colleges and universities much better after they graduate from high school.

Students are encouraged to buy a copy of the books they have been assigned to read so they may annotate. However, students may download the books onto their iPads and keep notes on what they read on a separate tab or check the books out from the library and keep their annotations in a notebook. The list and assignments required for each title will be posted on the Powers Catholic High School website. Any questions should be directed to the Department Chair of the English department Stacey Turczyn (sturczyn@powerscatholic.org).

Happy Reading!!

Senior English Seminar Summer Reading List

You will be reading **THREE** books over the summer for this class:

- *Without You, There Is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite* by Suki Kim. This is a memoir, non-fiction.
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Housseini. Fiction.
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Housseini. Fiction.

The last two by the same author are both set in Afghanistan/Pakistan and told from very different points of view. I am aware that *The Kite Runner* has been made into a movie; substitute the movie for reading the book at your own peril.

Be prepared for an assignment the first week of school. There is a very good chance it will be made available to you before then if you check the Powers Catholic Summer Reading List site.

Happy Reading!

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