



# ISLAND TREES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL, 59 STRAIGHT LANE, LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756-5799

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## ***Dear Parents and Guardians of High School Students:***

The Island Trees School District has a mandatory summer reading program for all students. Reading is the basis for all learning. It is vital that parents, teachers, and administrators work together to encourage our children to make reading a part of their everyday lives.

This summer, students will be required to read at least one book. Every student has received the assigned book(s). It is highly suggested that students read additional books to coincide with their interests. Please refer to the list on the reverse side of this letter for the titles and authors of all selections. During the first week of school, all students will be tested on their reading assignments. In addition, their first writing assignment will be based on the book(s) they read. Some students have also received summer assignments that coincide with their books. New students may pick up copies of the required books in the high school guidance department and/or the high school library.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lori Christensen 520-2135 or [lchristensen@islandtrees.net](mailto:lchristensen@islandtrees.net).

Sincerely,

Nicholas Grande  
Principal

Lori Christensen  
English Chairperson

*Island Trees High School English Department  
Summer Reading Lists  
2017-2018 School Year*

**English 9:**

*The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci

**English 10:**

*The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

**English 10AP Seminar:**

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

**English 11:**

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

**11AP English Language and Composition:**

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

AND *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

**English 12: A choice between:**

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

**College English:**

*A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah

**12AP English Literature and Composition:**

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison



## 10 Critical Facts about Summer Reading

### Losses from the "Summer Slide"

**- learning or reading skill losses during the summer months are cumulative, creating a wider gap each year between more proficient and less proficient students. By the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. <sup>2</sup>**

- Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer. <sup>1</sup>
- Teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer. <sup>3</sup>
- It is estimated that the "Summer Slide" accounts for as much as 85% of the reading achievement gap between lower income students and their middle- and upper-income peers. <sup>4</sup>
- During the school year, lower income children's skills improve at close to the same rate as those of their more advantaged peers - but over the summer, middle- and upper-income children's skills continue to improve, while lower income children's skills do not. <sup>3</sup>
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed. <sup>5</sup>
- 3rd graders who can't read on grade level are four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader. <sup>6</sup>
- Having reading role-model parents or a large book collection at home has a greater impact on kids' reading frequency than does household income. <sup>7</sup>
- An overwhelming 92% of kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves. <sup>7</sup>
- Ninety-nine percent of parents think children their child's age should read over the summer. <sup>7</sup>
- Parents think their children should read an average of 11 books over the summer, ranging from 17 books for children ages 6-8, to 6 books for 15- to 17-year olds. <sup>7</sup>

1. Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap, Jimmy Kim, Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk, 2004.
2. Ameliorating summer reading setback among economically disadvantaged elementary students, Richard Allington, April 2007.
3. Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap, Karl Alexander, Doris Entwistle, Linda Steffel Olson, April 2007.
4. Why Summer Matters in the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap, Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Frazen, August 2009.
5. The Power of Reading, Stephen Krashen, Libraries Unlimited, 1993.
6. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Hernandez, Donald J., 2011.
7. The Kids and Family Reading Report™ 4th edition conducted by Harrison Group and Scholastic, 2012.