

# Secondary English Language Arts Summer Reading Fort Bend ISD

*The purpose of summer reading in FBISD is to engage students in an enjoyable reading experience that maintains and fosters literacy.*

The educators in Fort Bend ISD support the following research-based reasons for summer reading:

Summer reading prevents the “summer setback” that many times happens when students refrain from reading. Research has shown that students who do not continue to read in the summer decline in academic achievement (Cahill, Horvath, McGill-Franzen, & Allington, 2013; Cooper et al., 1996; Entwisle, Alexander, & Olson, 1997; Heyns, 1978).

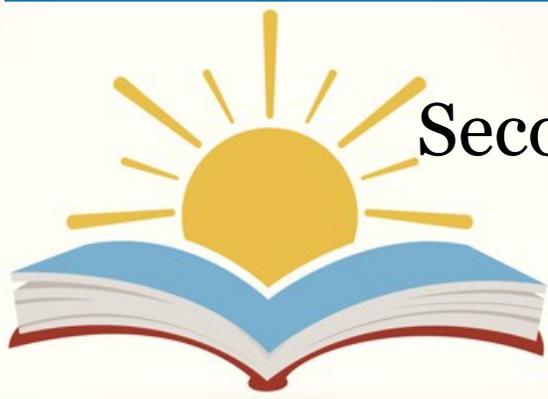
Reading over the summer months keeps students minds engaged and makes for an easier transition to the next grade level because students have continued, not stunted, their reading levels (Cahill, et al., 2013; Kim, 2004).

Summer reading has been proven to reduce the gaps between student demographic groups, and to help close the achievement gap (Cooper et al., 1996; Duncan & Murnane, 2011).

While engaged in summer reading, students are enhancing their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading achievement in general.

Summer reading supports and encourages students to become lifelong readers. This supports lifelong critical thinking skills, habits that we strive to create for all students.

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## **How to Create a Literacy Rich Home Environment**

- \* Make sure there are books available your home.
- \* Provide access to different types of reading on different platforms including news, blogs, audio-books, and more.
- \* Go to the library. Libraries are good for checking out books, but also for joining book clubs and talking to other readers. Fort Bend County Libraries currently provide a [Middle School Summer Reading Challenge](#).
- \* Talk to your kids about what they are reading. Reading is a social activity, whether a person loves or hates a book they are always eager to talk about it. Give your children this opportunity.
- \* Read with, to, and alongside your children. Your children will value reading more if they see that their parents value reading.
- \* Talk to your children about what you are reading. Share your reading life with your children, no matter your interests. It might even inspire them to look at new topics.
- \* Encourage students to read the campus summer reading books, but also give them choices of other books to read.

## **Books, Books, and More Books!**

[Young Adult Library Services Association \(YALSA\)](#) published the best of lists for young adult books every year, including [fiction](#), [audiobooks](#), [graphic novels](#), [quick picks for reluctant readers](#), and [teen's top ten](#).

The International Literacy Association also publishes a [Young Adult Choices Reading List](#) every year with description of the books. Students can even apply to be a team leader for the program.

[The Texas Library Association \(TLA\)](#) publishes a booklist for middle school each year called the [Lone Star Reading List](#). They also publish the [Tayshas](#) list for high school readers.

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