

Babylon Union Free School District

Babylon Union Free School District
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Robert Visbal
High School Principal

Steven Goldberg
Assistant Principal

Spring 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

"A book must be an ice-axe to break the seas frozen inside our soul."
– Franz Kafka

Ice-axe indeed. As current spring temperatures chill, our students drag their trademark flip-flops in squeaky indignation. "This is *not* our beloved, beachy Babylon!" And right they are. We *all* anxiously anticipate sunnier climes. The time for slathering on sunscreen, digging toes into warm sand, and settling-in for a good read. Summer-time. *Sigh*. With year-long distractions gone, this is the *perfect* time of year to encourage our children to grab some books, dive in, and develop the habits of life-long readers. Imagine what they'll discover with time and quiet, as Kafka's image implies.

Here are some specifics about the English Department's Summer Reading Program for all 7th-12th grade students:

REQUIRED READING:

- All students read **one** book from the **required** reading list (primary book)
- All students read **one** book **of their choice** (secondary book): this may be, but does not have to be, from the supplemental list
- Accelerated students read **two** books from the **required** reading list and one book of their choice (this may be, but does not have to be, from the supplemental list)
- AP students will have a **separate mailing** with specific books to be read
- Selections are to be read by the Friday of the first week of school

EXTRA CREDIT READING

- All students may read up to **3 books for extra credit**
- For **each book** read, students must **complete a response** to the text (suggestions provided)
- Responses will be shared with classmates in the fall
- For each extra book read, a point is added to first quarter average
- Books do not have to be selections from the list
- Required reading books do not count as extra credit books

CONTRACTS

- Parents and students must sign and date contracts of required and extra credit books read
- Students bring signed contracts to their English teacher in the fall
- If contracts are not submitted in the fall, points will be deducted from the in class written assignment

ASSESSMENTS

- Students will be asked to write about their required reading text in class during the first week of school
- At home, students will prepare a response to their secondary book (see provided suggestions), to be handed in the first week of school
- Students will share responses of their secondary book and their extra credit books with their classmates in the fall

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Forms:
 - Pick your browser of choice and in the address bar, type exactly as written (Google is case sensitive): <http://sites.google.com/a/babylonufsd.org/babylon-jr-sr-high-school/Home/Summer-Reading-Program>
 - Click on needed documents

~ OR ~

 - Pick your browser of choice and in the address bar, type: www.babylonschools.org
 - Click on "Student Resources" (on left-hand side of the home page)
 - Click on "Summer Reading Program"
 - Click on needed documents

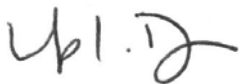
- For books:
 - The Babylon Public Library
 - The Media Center at the Babylon JHSH
 - Owl Book Store, Rte. 109, Farmingdale (20% discount for students)
 - Barnes and Noble, Bay Shore
 - Borders, Farmingdale

Our summer reading program feeds into the independent reading program for students during the course of the year. Ultimately, students read **25 books a year in order to meet New York state standards**, standards that are the same for all grade levels.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the summer reading program or anything else, please do not hesitate to call 631-893-7909.

We wish you a pleasant and safe summer.

Sincerely,



Lisa I. Drance
Director of English



Robert A. Visbal
High School Principal

Enclosures

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