

Reading for Success
White Oak Middle School
Summer Reading Program
301-989-5780

Rationale

Summer reading has been an expected practice in Montgomery County middle and high schools since 1998. The ability to read is crucial to success in school and on the job. Research shows that reading, like most skills, improves with practice and decreases when we don't engage in it for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare students for success during the school year, we continue to expect all students to read during the summer. Summer reading is an opportunity to read for pleasure as well as to open doors to new ideas.

Summer Reading Expectations

Students are expected to read **two** books over the summer of approximately 150 pages or more; **one** book must be selected from the following book lists for the grade he or she is entering in the fall. The other book may be one of his/her own choosing. Parents may be asked to sign a note to indicate approval of the second book.

Instead of doing a second book, the student has the option of doing **100 questions on Study Island** at a 60 percent accuracy rate or higher. Study Island is a web-based program modeled after the Maryland State Assessment. All the student needs is access to the internet and a username and password to attempt this option. **The Study Island option is not available for incoming sixth graders!**

Assignment/Assessment

Each student will select a project listed on the **summer enrichment and activities page** for each book read. The project will be based on one or more of the literary elements listed on the graphic organizer: setting, main character, main events, author's purpose, and theme. For example, they may design a postcard that shows the setting or act out a scene from one of the main events. Students will receive two homework grades for their projects and are not required to hand in the graphic organizer to earn a grade. The Study Island option will satisfy one of these grades.

Book Lists

The books suggested are recommended from the county or are winners of prestigious book awards. There is a variety of topical interests and different reading levels. There are asterisks identifying books which are challenging in content or lexile levels. Some are multidisciplinary. The reading lists should also be available on the MCPS website and in our local libraries.

At White Oak Middle School, we want to encourage students to read for pleasure as well as for instructional purpose. Please help your student select books that interest him or her personally. Parents are also more than welcome to read our suggested books during the summer and share their opinions about the books with the teachers in the fall.

If you have further questions, please contact the English Content Specialist, David Field, at david_r_field@mcpsmd.org or 301-989-5780.