Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of summer reading is twofold: one, to enjoy the activity of reading, and two, to maintain comprehension skills, fluency, and stamina during the summer months. We strongly encourage students to read as many books as possible, but all students entering grades 6-12 are encouraged to read at least two books. Students will choose their own books, except for students who will be taking AP English Language and AP English Literature courses; those students have required reading as noted below.

We recognize that COVID-19 closures have made access to bookstores and libraries challenging. For that reason, there will not be a September assessment on summer reading.

Students who will be taking AP English Language and Composition must read James Baldwin’s essay, “Notes of a Native Son,” and another work of their choice. The Baldwin text can be accessed here: Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin.

Students who will be taking AP English Literature and Composition must read Carson McCullers’ The Heart is a Lonely Hunter and another work of their choice. The pdf version to this text can be found here: Carson McCullers, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.

If you are looking for suggestions for books to read, here are some useful links:

- Ms. Quinn’s List of Suggested Books for Nyack Middle Schoolers
- Ms. Birro’s List of Suggested Books for Nyack High Schoolers
- Recommended books from some of the teachers at Nyack High School

On behalf of the English Department at Nyack Middle School and at Nyack High School, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy, enjoyable summer. We truly look forward to greeting you all when the schools reopen. Be well.

Sincerely,

John Joyce
English Department Chairperson, Grades 6-12