



In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

***"What we know is that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development while kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency..." Richard Allington, professor of literacy studies and past-president of the International Reading Association***

We, in Conroe ISD, do maintain our belief in the power of reading for all students. In order to maintain reading skills and continue to grow a reading life, we encourage all students to continue reading over the summer.

**In light of the current public health situation and modified learning environment, we will not be requiring students to complete any accompanying assignment or project for any suggested summer reading for the 2020-2021 school year.**

In order to help students with text selections, individual campuses may provide suggestions of particular reading lists or specific genres to best transition into the beginning of the school year.

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### **AP English IV Literature & Composition**

According to the College Board website, "the AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum."

- With this in mind, reading fiction this summer is foundational for AP English IV.
- I would like for you to READ. That's my number one goal for you this summer: READ. We are experiencing an extraordinary time, and reading is the BEST thing you can do to keep your skills sharp and to prepare for your senior year and your future.. Reading makes you smarter. Do you want to get smarter? READ.
- In an effort to narrow the field a bit, I would like for you to read at least one novel that falls into the "coming of age" or "bildungsroman" genre. "A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world" (College Board).
- In this genre, we have YA novels as well as classic and contemporary works. Remember my main goal for you: READ. *Harry Potter* certainly falls into this category, and you could read or re-read the whole series this summer if you'd like, and I would be thrilled; however, you will not write on a *Harry Potter* novel on the AP Lit exam. For the exam, you will want to write on a novel of "literary merit" which could be a classic or a contemporary novel, but something of college level complexity.
- My best advice: do some research, choose a "coming of age" novel for yourself, and you guessed it, READ!

Lastly, I cannot wait to meet you and start school next year! Email me at [lcox@conroeisd.net](mailto:lcox@conroeisd.net) if you have any questions.

Take care and happy reading,

Mrs. Cox

Here are some **suggestions** of “coming of age” novels, but ANY novel is fine:

NOTE: While I have read many of these, I have not read all of them. **Do your research** and choose a book that is appropriate for you as far as readability and subject matter!

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*All the Light We Cannot See*

*All the Pretty Horses*

*Atonement*

*The Book of Longings*

*The Catcher in the Rye*

*The Chosen*

*The Cider House Rules*

*The Color Purple*

*Cry, The Beloved Country*

*The Dutch House*

*The Grapes of Wrath*

*Great Expectations*

*The House on Mango Street*

*Invisible Man*

*Jane Eyre*

*The Joy Luck Club*

*Poisonwood Bible*

*Purple Hibiscus*

*The Secret Life of Bees*

*A Separate Peace*

*Snow Flower and The Secret Fan*

*The Sound and the Fury*

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

*Where the Crawdads Sing*

Use [Good Reads Coming of Age](#) or [LitHub Coming of Age](#) and [Rated Reads](#) as resources as well.

There are many ways to access free books online. See the list below for some available resources to help you gain access to books:

#### **Apps found in the CISD SSO Portal:**

- **Sora**
  - Free access to a variety of e-books and audiobooks
- **Destiny Discover**
  - Check out e-books and audiobooks from your campus library (Use your SSO username and login and choose ORHS.)

#### **Other websites with free resources:**

- **Montgomery County Public Library**
  - E-Books & Audiobooks: <https://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/elibrary>
  - Get a Digital Library Card: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/registration.html>
- **Open Library**
  - Create a free account: <https://openlibrary.org/account/create>
  - Popular Titles: <https://bit.ly/2XBEwyP>
- **Project Gutenberg**
  - Free E-Books: [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)
  - Top 100 Most Popular: <http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/scores/top>
- **Audible Stories**
  - Free Audiobooks: <https://stories.audible.com/>