

2023 CISD Summer Reading: 7th - 12th Grades

CISD highly encourages students to read books of their choice during the summer to minimize summer learning loss and help accelerate learning during the school year. We encourage students to do this by participating in summer reading programs through their campus and community libraries, by investigating topics and genres of interest to them, and by growing their critical thinking skills through conversations with others about their reading.

CISD does not require that students read specific books during the summer nor do we assign work based on summer reading.

Throughout the coming school year, students in grades 7 - 12 will read across a variety of literary genres and be asked to think critically about the meaning of a given text and the ways authors communicate their messages. Below are some examples that you can use to practice this summer:

Genre	Description	Questions to Grow Your Thinking
Fiction	Novels or short stories that tell a made-up story. Types of fiction include: Realistic, Historical, Dystopian, Fantasy, Sci-Fi, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of person is the main character, and how does the author reveal that to you? • What is the overall theme (message about life) that the author seems to be communicating? Are they using any of these techniques to reveal that message?
Poetry	A literary work that is typically used to express feelings and ideas through techniques like rhyme, rhythm, highly descriptive language, symbolism, creative word choice, and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the poem seem to be about? How do you know? • Who is the speaker (narrator) of the poem? • Which techniques does the poet use to communicate the message?
Literary Nonfiction	Accounts of real people, places and events told in a story-like way, including autobiographies, memoirs, and biographies. This is sometimes called “creative nonfiction.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick a section (page or paragraph) of text. What narrative goal(s) does the author seem to be aiming for in that section? How can you tell? • Does the text sometimes seem to be giving information rather than telling a story? What informational goals does the author seem to be aiming for here? How can you tell?
Drama	A type of fiction that is meant to be performed on a stage; a play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the author use dialogue and stage directions to communicate information about the character, plot, or setting?
Informational	A type of nonfiction writing that is meant to inform (teach) the reader about a certain topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main idea of the text? What are the most important details that support this idea? • What message does the author seem to be communicating, and why do you think they wrote this text? • Does the author use any of these techniques to communicate their message?
Argument	An argument text is a text written to persuade the reader to be either 'for' or 'against' a certain issue or topic. Sometimes the writer presents <i>both sides</i> of a debate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author’s claim (main argument)? • Which techniques does the author use to support the claim?

Ways to Access Books

Apps found in the CISD SSO Portal:

Sora: Free access to a variety of ebooks and audiobooks



Sora

Destiny Discover: Check out ebooks and audiobooks from your campus library



Destiny Discover

Montgomery County Public Library



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
INFORMATION, IDEAS, AND INTERACTIONS

E-Books and Audiobooks:
<https://countylibrary.org/ebooks>

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Track Your Reading

Print this “[book shelf](#)” to keep track of your reading this summer:



You might also write in a journal, log your reading in a spreadsheet, join a book club, or even start one!

Access this document digitally:



<http://tiny.conroeisd.net/nNkje>

Preparing for Advanced Academics

Students who are the most successful in Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses have read across a wide variety of authors, genres, and time periods. These books are often referred to as “books of literary merit,” and there are many blogs and websites that provide suggested titles within this category. Students enrolling in advanced academic coursework are encouraged to read such books over the summer and throughout the school year.

AP Language & Dual Credit 1301/1302

The AP Language and Dual Credit courses ask students to “cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.” Students are encouraged to read informational and argumentative texts across a wide variety of topics and time periods that include topics of their interest as well new and unfamiliar ideas.

Due to the nature of the AP Language exam, in particular, and its requirement for students to be prepared to write a persuasive essay that cites specific real world evidence on a broad topic (making decisions, perfectionism, exploring the unknown, etc.), it is in the students’ best interest to get a head start on reading to grow their knowledge of the world.

AP Literature & Dual Credit 2301/2302

The AP Literature and Dual Credit courses ask students to think deeply about various forms of literature including novels, plays, and poetry. Students will become well versed in not only those specific types of literature, but also various time periods and authors. Students are encouraged to read selections both within their comfort zone (i.e. realistic fiction) and outside their comfort zone (i.e. historical fiction or poetry) to expand their breadth of knowledge.

Due to the nature of the AP Literature exam, and its requirement for students to be prepared to explain multiple novels in depth, it is in the students’ best interest to get a head start on this wide reading during the summer, paying particular attention to the themes that are addressed within a given text.