



# West Deptford High School

1600 OLD CROWN POINT ROAD • WEST DEPTFORD, NJ • 08093-1742  
PHONE: (856) 848-6110 FAX: (856) 845-5774



Kelly A. Saia  
Asst. Principal/Curriculum

*Brian C. Gismondi*  
Principal

Tim Cammarota  
Asst. Principal/Discipline

Dear Parents:

Essayist Joseph Addison wrote, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." In today's world young people exercise their bodies to keep in shape, and any break in an exercise routine will cause them to immediately lose muscle tone. Similarly, it makes perfect sense that any break in reading, the exercising of the mind, will diminish reading comprehension skills. Research has shown that time spent reading correlates with academic success, vocabulary development, standardized-test performance, attitudes toward additional reading, and the development of world knowledge (Moore, Bean, Birdyshaw & Rycik, 1999). With this in mind, the West Deptford High School Summer Reading Assignment requires that students read a book of their choosing. This is known as self-selected reading.

Every student entering grades nine to twelve will be required to read at least one self-selected book this summer, take notes, identify the literary elements at work within the book, and be prepared to complete an assessment upon their return to school. The second page of this letter has a sample of how to complete a double journal entry. Additionally, on the school website is an overview of the basic literary elements. Upon their return to school, students should submit their double journal reading logs for a grade and bring with them any notes they may have taken while reading their books.

If a student is having difficulty choosing a book, a partial list is available on the school website. To generate this summer reading guide, teachers researched other summer reading programs throughout the country and the latest trends in reading research. Teachers also observed the reading preferences of students in their current classes to discover what they liked to read as well. Finally, teachers looked at the data presented by the College Board regarding texts necessary for students preparing to enter college or take the SAT.

All students of West Deptford High School are expected to complete their self-selected summer reading by the first day of school and each individual teacher will address the assignment in class. An assessment, assigned at the teacher's discretion, may include an essay or book talk. The project, essay, or presentation results will be included in the first marking period grade. Copies of the books are available from a variety of sources. Most bookstores as well as the West Deptford Library have the selections.

The ultimate goal of our summer assignment is to encourage the valuable habit of reading and to continue to be life-long learners. There is no better way to stimulate our minds, form mental pictures of exotic places, meet compelling characters, learn new ideas, or enjoy a funny conversation or a beautiful line. The choices of reading have been compiled with students' interests in mind; however, as the phrase "self-selected" implies, students are free to choose any novel.

If you should have any troubles downloading the required packet from the school website, there will be printed packets available for pick up in the High School Guidance Office all summer long.

Thank you and Have a great summer!

Sincerely,  
Kelly A. Saia  
HS Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction

## ASSESSMENT

Students will complete and submit one double journal reading log on the first day of school. Format for the reading log is provided below. Students will also participate in a literature circle classroom activity based on their summer reading during the first week of school. **Students will have the opportunity to earn 5% of their first marking period grade.**

### DOUBLE JOURNAL READING LOG FORMAT

A double journal entry is to be kept for each of your chosen novels. Draw a line down the middle of a page of lined paper. On the left side copy a meaningful passage, a line of dialogue, a description, or a character's thought. Be sure to note the page number. On the right side write your response to the passage. Why did you like it? Did it interest or confuse you? What does it mean to you? Set it up like the format below and have at least 20 entries. **This is to be hand written, not typed. Have a variety of passages from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.**

SAMPLE:

**Quotation, passage, etc. copied from novel.**

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” (Page 1)

**Your Personal Response**

This was the first sentence of the book. When I read it, I thought the writer was serious. I was almost halfway through the book before I realized she was actually making fun of what people believed.

Complete 20 entries like this. This will be valuable to you when you return to school to use for lit circles or any other tasks for your novels that your teacher may assign.

**Have the novel read and the journals completed by the first day of school.**