Why should students read during the summer?

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty members Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study showing that students lose up to three months of learning every summer—skills they worked hard to acquire during the school year. However, the study showed a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who took part in summer reading at home.

Allington compares the slide in reading ability to an athlete's fitness. "Just like hockey players lose some of their skills if they stay off their skates and off the ice for three months, children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development," Allington said.

- from http://www.sciencedaily.com/

Read more about it:
http://intl.kappanmagazine.org/content/85/1/68.short

Talk About It:
Part of growing as a reader is learning how to think while you read. Ask each other questions before, during, and after reading:

- What was most important about what we just read?
- How did the characters change over time?
- What was your favorite part of that section?
- Did you read anything that might impact your life? How?
- Does this text remind you of something you have read, seen, or heard before? How?

Get Caught Reading:
Set an example by reading in public. Let everyone see you reading a newspaper or browsing through a novel on the beach or beside the pool. Liven up chore time or meal time by taking turns working while one person reads aloud a favorite book or an exciting new novel. Have fun!

“We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.”
- Author Ursula Le Guin

Theme for Rising English II: Exploring Worlds and Cultures
The Themes
Many of the things you will read and write in English II explore stories of and about other cultures, inviting readers to consider who we are and the places we fill in the world. Some of the books on these lists are more challenging than others, but all explore these themes through events (plot), characters, and conflicts.

Summer Reading Project
Consult with teachers and/or teacher librarians to choose two books (one fiction and one informational) like those on this brochure. With parent approval of the choices, read the two books over the summer.

Talk with teachers of HONORS English II, AP Language, and AP Literature about which titles from the brochure are required summer reading in addition to a second title for a total of two selections. Each school will share rewards and expectations for when school starts.

Register for the Berkeley County Library System summer program at berkeleylibrarysc.readsquared.com and read for prizes.

These books and others like them are available not only in school libraries, but also in your public libraries and local bookstores. Have a great summer and enjoy the magic of books!