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!

“\textit{It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you’ll be when you can’t help it.}”
- Author Oscar Wilde

Theme for Rising English IV: On Being British
Have a great summer and enjoy the magic of books!

**The Themes**

Many of the things you will read and write in English III explore what it has meant and what it means now to be an American. Some of the books on these lists are more challenging than others, but all explore these themes through familiar settings, events (plot), characters, and conflicts.

**Summer Reading Project**

Consult with teachers and/or 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.

Teachers of **HONORS** English III classes will choose one title from the brochure for required summer reading in addition to a second title (chosen by student or teacher), for a total of two selections. Prospective **AP Language** and **AP Literature** students should contact that teacher for specific expectations. Each school will share rewards and expectations for when school starts.

These books and others like them are available not only in school libraries, but also in your public library and local book stores. Register for the Berkeley County Library System summer program at berkeleylibrarysc.readsquared.com and read for prizes.

**Fiction Texts** such as:

- *Boy*, Roald Dahl (E)
- *Enter Three Witches*, Caroline Cooney (E)
- *Vanity Fair*, William Makepeace Thackary (T)
- *Timeline*, Michael Crichton (E)
- *Something Rotten or Something Wicked*, Alan Gratz (E)
- *Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein (J)
- *And Then There Were None*, Agatha Christie (and others by this author) (J)
- *The White Queen*, Phillipa Gregory (J)
- *Ostrich Boys*, Keith Gray (J)
- *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, Allison Weir (and others by this author)
- *Arthur and George*, Julian Barnes (E) (and others by this author)
- *Cover Her Face: An Adam Dalgliesh Mystery*, P.D. James (and others by this author)
- *Little Bee: A Novel or Incendiary*, Chris Cleave
- *Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh (T)
- *Pride and Prejudice or Emma*, Jane Austen (T, E, J) (and others by this author)
- *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte (T, E, J)
- *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte (T, J)
- *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien (T, E, J) (and others by this author)
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Mark Haddon (E)
- *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, Helen Simonson (J)
- *A Room With a View*, E.M. Forster (E)
- *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, Rachel Joyce (E)
- *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, Geraldine Brooks (E)
- *David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens (and others by this author) (T, J)
- *Atonement: A Novel*, Ian McEwan (E, J)
- *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley (J)
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde (E)
- *Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies*, Hilary Mantel (J)

**Informational Texts** such as:

- *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt (E)
- *Call the Midwife*, Jennifer Worth (J) (and others in that series)
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster
- *Notes from a Small Island or The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got That Way*, Bill Bryson (J)
- *Songbook*, Nick Hornby (E) (and other fiction titles by this author)
- *Goodbye to All That*, Robert Graves
- *Off With Their Heads: All the Cool Bits in British History*, Martin Oliver
- *The Lives of the Kings and Queens of England*, Antonia Fraser
- *Britannia in Brief: The Scoop on All Things British*, Leslie Banker and William Mullins (E)
- *All Creatures Great and Small*, James Herriot (T, E, J) (and others by this author)
- *The Victorian City: Everyday Life in Dickens' London*, Judith Flanders (E)
- *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*, Erik Larson (J)
- *Longitude*, Dava Sobel (J)
- *The Map That Changed the World*, Simon Winchester
- *A History of Britain: Volume 1 - At the Edge of the World*, Simon Schama
- *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*, Alfred Lansing

**T= Traditional favorites**

*= Mature language or topics.  
(E) = available on the district e-bookshelf  
(J) = available on the public library e-bookshelf via http://berkeleylibrarysc.org/