Why does Wesleyan have a summer reading requirement?

Reading every day, even during the summer, is important.

- We want students to develop a love of reading!
- Students who do not read during the summer can lose progress they made during the school year.
- Establishing a personal reading routine may be easier during the less hectic days of summer.
- Reading an assigned book over the summer provides an immediately usable text in English class.

Purchasing the Assigned English Book

Purchasing a print copy of the book assigned by the English department is necessary so that everyone references the same page numbers. If shopping at your local bookstore, check the ISBN to make sure you have the required copy. If ordering online, searching by ISBN is the easiest way to guarantee the correct purchase.

The Fiction and Nonfiction Choices

The choices are up to you (as long as your parents approve them, of course)!

There is no need to purchase these books unless desired. Feel free to read from a physical book or on a device. If listening improves your comprehension, please pair audio with text to strengthen your print reading abilities.

Looking for Ideas

Browse bookstores or visit your local public library. Summer is a great time to explore a different collection that may have selections not found in our school library.

Remember that you are not limited to the books you see in your branch; use the library’s request system to take advantage of the entire county collection. Take the time to introduce yourself to the children/teen librarian who will be glad to make suggestions.

Suggestion Lists on the Website

There are some lists of recommended fiction and nonfiction on the Wesleyan website. The lists include notable books published over the past several years along with some older choices that are still worthy of a recommendation.

As reflected in the lists, some topics and time periods inspire a flood of books while others do not. Use the tabs along the bottom of the sheets to move through the different categories.

Doing the Reading

Try to set aside 20 uninterrupted minutes each day to read. Choose a comfortable spot free of distractions and silence your devices. You will easily complete your summer reading and establish a valuable habit at the same time.

Sora and MackinVia

Chapman Library may be closed for the summer, but students will still have access to great books. Plan to use Sora and MackinVia, Wesleyan’s apps for eBooks and audio books, to enjoy downloadable books on mobile devices all summer long.

Directions for downloading the apps are available on the Chapman Library webpage. Parents should be aware that content for all age groups (K – adult) is visible and available to all users.

Reading More

Don’t stop at three. Read all you can this summer!
Why read?

The benefits of reading just 20 minutes each day are numerous, and they accumulate without the reader giving them much thought.

- Readers are better writers.
- Readers perform better academically, even in subjects that might seem unrelated such as math.
- Readers are better problem solvers and more creative thinkers.
- Readers show greater emotional and social intelligence.
- Reading offers a window into different cultures, perspectives and viewpoints.
- Reading offers a mirror for our own experiences, helping us sort through our thoughts and emotions.
- Reading is a source of new information.
- Reading about the same topic in different contexts helps store information in memory.
- Reading is entertaining and relaxing for those who have developed their skills.

DAILY makes a difference.

The only way to become a better reader is to read. Over time, 20 minutes of daily reading improves confidence, comprehension, speed, and fluency. Improvement in these areas leads to a better reader and a more enjoyable reading experience. Speed makes homework go faster; fluency takes the stress out of reading in public. Confidence and comprehension lead to broader, more challenging reading choices.

ALL reading is valuable.

Different types of text and various levels of difficulty all serve a purpose. Fiction texts and nonfiction texts develop different sets of skills. Reading a slightly difficult text exposes the reader to new vocabulary and concepts. Reading a less difficult text also has benefits. Reading without the need to decode allows the reader to develop speed, fluency, and confidence.

Comprehension begets comprehension.

Comprehending what one reads creates a bank of stored information that is used in understanding other texts; therefore, students who read are regularly adding to their bank of information allowing them to understand more and more. Sadly, students who do not read regularly are caught in a reverse cycle of decreased comprehension leading to even less understanding of new texts.

The fix is to read more and to read more often!

CHOICE is critically important.

Research shows a correlation between student choice and improved reading. Within the bounds of age appropriateness, students need to make their own choices about their personal reading.