

Somers High School English Dept Summer Reading

At SHS, the entire department is actively involved in the choosing of texts for summer reading. The process includes different combinations of people and vetting procedures.

- In a regular department meeting, all teachers, the English curriculum leader, and the SHS librarian discuss ideas for texts to be included. Determined at this meeting are the following points:
 - All texts will be suggested or chosen with as much consideration of student choice as possible.
 - All texts will be aligned with the courses' curricula.
 - Individual grade level and course teaching teams will make appropriate choices.
 - Any discussion, reflection, or assessment of the summer reading will not take place before the third week of school.
- Teachers for each grade level or course meet separately to design summer reading assignments in answer to the following questions:
 - Should there be one or two summer texts for the course?
 - Should books be mandatory or choice (or both if two texts)? How much direction and choice will be given?
 - Will texts be chosen as a direct connection to the curriculum? (For example, thematically-connected texts or having students read a book already included in the regular curriculum prior to the first day of school)
 - Will all choices be written texts or will there be viewing options (ex., documentary or film adaptations)?
 - Will there be a written component to the summer assignment?
 - How/in what format will the summer reading texts be addressed in class?
- Once course/grade-level teams have chosen summer reading texts, the titles are sent to the SHS librarian to be vetted. The librarian:
 - Researches the reviews/awards for each suggested to verify recommended audience, literary merit, and/or reader appeal.
 - Shares reviews/awards with the teaching teams as well as any questions/concerns about the summer reading texts based on the research conducted.
- The librarian's information and evaluation is reviewed by the teaching teams for final decision-making.
- The summer reading choices/assignments are shared with the Assistant Principal who oversees the English department and with the Learning Office.
- Summer reading assignments are posted and distributed to students, parents, and the community.
- Assignments and choices are discussed in classes with incoming students (including those entering 9th grade).