

WEST ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017

Assignment for Students Entering Grade 12

All students will read two books.

***Title #1 – Genre Study: Historical Fiction**

***Title #2 – FREE CHOICE**

“A genre is a particular type of literature, painting, music, film, or other art form which people consider as a class because it has special characteristics” (*Collins COBUILD Dictionary of American English*). This year, students entering grade 12 are being asked to read two books of different genres.

The first book should be HISTORICAL FICTION. “In historical fiction, setting is the most important literary element. Because the author is writing about a particular time in history, the information about the time period must be accurate, authentic, or both. To create accurate and authentic settings in their books, authors must research the time period thoroughly” (http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson404/HistoricalFictionDefn.pdf).

While aspects of the time period in historical fiction are based in fact, characters may be real or imagined, and events may be based on well-known incidents or can be made up by the writer. Readers must be attuned to these possibilities, which requires careful reading and more sophisticated reading strategies.

Students’ second book is FREE CHOICE. Students may choose to read a title from any genre that is of interest and which represents an appropriate level of challenge.

Please see our district website, www.wi.k12.ny.us, for the following book lists which can be used as a guide.

- Historical Fiction for Incoming 12th Grade Students
- Suggested Reading List Grades 9 – 12 (FREE CHOICE)

All genres present different kinds of demands on the reader. It is our goal to expose students to different genres so that they learn to anticipate these demands and adjust their reading accordingly. Furthermore, “having a deep understanding of the characteristics of genres is a strong foundation for all literacy-related learning” (*Genre Study*, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, p. 19)

OTHER BOOK RESOURCES

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten>

This link will take you to the YALSA’s (Young Adult Library Services Association) Teens’ Top Ten Nominees for 2017. (Click on “View an annotated list of the nominees.”) Links to Top Ten lists for previous years are also accessible.

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/search/best%20memoirs%20for%20teens>

For each book listed, Common Sense Media provides a description as well as a section entitled, “What Parents Need to Know” to help families choose appropriate texts.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/must-reads-for-teens/379002318/>

This link will allow you to search the Barnes & Noble list, Must-Reads for Teens.