2019 Summer Reading Assignment for the English Department:
Students entering all grades

The goal of this year’s summer reading assignment is to help students learn more about their world and to read something that speaks to them. This year, students will have two components to their summer reading assignment:

1. **New York Times Summer Reading Contest 2019**

Students will participate in the *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest. Register using your school-issued email address, rhssaddles.net. (If you are new to Regina, skip this step.) The contest runs from June 14th-August 23rd. Each week you are required to read **an article or editorial or analyze a political cartoon, video, or picture** of their choosing from a curated list for high school students found on the competition website under a new weekly updated link; this weekly list is free for those registered for the competition. You are NOT required to pay for a subscription to the *New York Times*.

They will then go to the competition comment section and compose an answer to the weekly question: “What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?” Students are expected to write comments that are 250-300 words in length.

In total, students will read 9 assignments and complete 9 comments for the *New York Times*. The *New York Times* staff will select student comments to publish online each week. **Students will print out their 9 articles and the accompanying comments that they wrote and bring them in a folder to the first day of school.** Students will have a culminating activity using their articles. A copy of the *New York Times* instructions is enclosed.

2. **Book of Choice**

Please look for your specific reading list below (per grade and level). Students must read ONE book of their choice from their list. When reading, consider the following questions and be ready to discuss your book during the first week of school:

- What did you most enjoy about the book?
- In what way is the setting important to your book?
- What have you read that is similar to this book? Why?
- What’s a question that you would ask the author about this book if you could?
- If you could rename this book, what would you call it? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not?
- What themes/messages do you see in this book?
- What are the major conflicts in this book and how do they drive the plot? How are they resolved?
- How has this book changed you and how you see the world?
- What does this book say to you about being a girl/young woman?
- What does this book say about current society? Or how life could or should be lived?
**Important Note for Students Transferring to Regina after August 15th:** You will have the first quarter of the school year to complete the summer reading assignment (*New York Times* contest and Book Choice). Consult with your teacher during the first week of school for more details.

**A Note To Students and Parents About Book Selection:**
Modern education philosophy tells us that students who have the opportunity to select books to read become more invested in their learning and enjoy reading much more. As a result, we are asking that students select one book to read this summer. The lists we provide are vast. We are sure that you will find a book you truly enjoy. Here are a few guidelines for selecting a book:

- Let your parents help you. Because the list includes books for all age ranges, some titles may not be appropriate for a student just entering high school. In addition, some students the same age may be more or less able to handle the content of a book. Who knows you better than your own parents? They may have recommendations or may help you to select a great book that you will truly enjoy. Be sure to select a book that is appropriate for you.
- Look at the description for the book. Does the book handle topics you are not comfortable with? Choose a different title. Does that book seem too simple or too difficult? The lists we provided are selected for teens of various reading abilities. Be sure to choose a book you will enjoy but will also be appropriately challenging.
- Consider your interests. When you read the book description, does it appeal to you? Have you enjoyed books of similar style before? If you have already read the book, don’t read it again but look for similar books perhaps by the same author.
- Dive in. We hope you find many books that interest you, but you only need to read one for the assignment. If you find several books you think are interesting, create a list for yourself, but don’t get so caught up trying to decide that you don’t know where to start. Just dive in and get reading! Enjoy!

**Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Freshman English:**

*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys  
*Does My Head Look Big in This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah  
*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez  
*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling  
*Pride* by Ibi Zoboi  
*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Honors Freshman English:

Fiction:
Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Pride by Ibi Zoboi
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Non-Fiction:
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Night by Elie Weisel
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town by Warren St. John
I am Scout: A Biography of Harper Lee by Charles J. Shields

Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering American Literature:

A Separate Peace by John Knowles
House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Paper Towns by John Green
Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
Perks of Being a Wallflowers Stephen Chbosky
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton

Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Honors American Literature:

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram
Hearts Unbroken by Cynthia Leitich Smith
I’m Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez
Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older
The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
We Are Okay by Nina LaCour
Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering World Literature:

Afghanistan: *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai  
*The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hossini  
South Africa: *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah  
Nigeria: *The Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
England: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding  
India: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel  
*Nectar in a Sieve* by Kamala Markandaya  
*The Good of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy  
Mexico: *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel  
Chile: *The Stories of Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende  
Brazil: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coehlo

Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering English 12:

*The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas  
*On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas

Students Entering AP Language or AP Literature:

There is a separate document for the summer reading assignment.