



Springfield High School

200 South Rolling Road, Springfield, PA 19064

Phone: 610-938-6100 | Fax: 610-938-6105
www.ssdcougars.org

*Proudly Serving the Families
of Morton and Springfield*

Daniel Tracy, Ed.D., *Principal*
Daniel.Tracy@ssdcougars.org

Megan Scelfo, *Assistant Principal*
Megan.Scelfo@ssdcougars.org

Anthony Simek, *Assistant Principal*
Anthony.Simek@ssdcougars.org

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Springfield School District strongly believes that the summer break should not mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer. Efforts should be made during the summer to sustain reading skills. Reading, especially reading novels, builds critical reading skills and thinking, vocabulary and language abilities.

Most importantly, students require a good example. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the television, and have each person read his or her book, even the adults in the house. Better yet, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it with him or her. This is an effective way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.

Listed below are the summer reading guidelines and expectations for all students enrolled in a College Prep language arts class in grades 9 through 12. While the books are different among the grades, the expectations are the same.

Required Book:

9th Grade: *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions* by Daniel Wallace

10th Grade: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

11th Grade: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

12th Grade: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Students are expected to read the required book over the summer. Students should employ active reading strategies, taking notes on both the plot and themes.

Assessment:

Each text will be integrated into grade level reading experiences throughout the first marking period and will be included as a component of the first marking period quarterly assessment.

Have a safe and fun summer!



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Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions

“In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. He could outrun anybody. He never missed a day of school. He saved lives and tamed giants. Animals loved him, people loved him, women loved him. He knew more jokes than any man alive. At least that's what he told his son, William. But now Edward Bloom is dying, and William desperately wants to know the truth about his elusive father – this indefatigable teller of tall tales before it's too late. So, using the few facts he knows, William re-creates Edward's life in a series of legends and myths, through which he begins to understand his father's great feats, and his great failings. The result is hilarious and wrenching, tender and outrageous.” – from the back cover of the paperback edition

Of Mice and Men

“They are an unlikely pair: George is ‘small and quick and dark of face’; Lennie, a man of tremendous size, has the mind of a young child. Yet they have formed a ‘family,’ clinging together in the face of loneliness and alienation. Laborers in California's dusty vegetable fields, they hustle work when they can, living a hand-to-mouth existence. For George and Lennie have a plan: to own an acre of land and a shack they can call their own. When they land jobs on a ranch in the Salinas Valley, the fulfillment of their dream seems to be within their grasp. But even George cannot guard Lennie from the provocations of a flirtatious woman, nor predict the consequences of Lennie's unswerving obedience to the things George taught him.” – from the back cover of the paperback edition

Night

“Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 to the Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. *Night* is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man. This new translation by his wife and most frequent translator, Marion Wiesel, corrects important details and presents the most accurate rendering in English of Elie Wiesel's testimony to what happened in the camps and of his unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.” – from the back cover of the paperback edition

The Alchemist

“Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, *The Alchemist* has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations. Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.” – from amazon.com