



Springfield High School
200 South Rolling Road
Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064
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www.ssdcougars.org

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 their book, including the adults in the house. Have discussions about what you are reading. This is an effective way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought

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 across grade levels, the expectations are similar. Students are expected to purchase and read the required book over the summer. Students should employ active reading strategies, taking notes on characterization, narrative structure, setting, and themes. In some courses, students will have some thought-work or writing to submit on the opening days of school.

Required Texts:

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

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

11th Grade: *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa

12th Grade: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho



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Writing tasks and/or First Quarter Assessments:

9th grade students: In the opening weeks of school, students will craft a constructed written response as well as an essay that draws on their reading of the summer text. The text will be tested on the first quarterly assessment. Students simply need to read the book by the first day of school.

10th grade students: Your summer task is to read the novella and take notes using the [chart](#). Complete each section as directed in the column headings and be sure that your notes are complete sentences that include specific details from the text to express your understanding. Be prepared to submit this assignment during the first week of school and know that **Turnitin.com will be scanning your work** for plagiarism. 10th grade students need to be prepared so submit the [linked task](#) on the first day of school.

11th grade students: You will be developing characterization charts on three characters from the novella, Your task is linked [here](#).

12th grade students: You do not have to formally submit answers to the linked questions, but you have the option to consider them and type out some thoughts to reference during the opening week of school. Your reading and thinking task is linked [here](#).

For all grades, 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 predict the consequences of Lennie’s unswerving obedience to the things George taught him.” – from the back cover of the paperback edition

The Housekeeper and the Professor by Yoko Ogawa

Yoko Ogawa’s *The Housekeeper and the Professor* is an enchanting story about what it means to live in the present, and about the curious equations that can create a family.

He is a brilliant math Professor with a peculiar problem - ever since a traumatic head injury, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short-term memory.



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She is an astute young Housekeeper - with a ten-year-old son - who is hired to care for the Professor. And every morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are introduced to each other anew, a strange and beautiful relationship blossoms between them. Though he cannot hold memories for long (his brain is like a tape that begins to erase itself every eighty minutes), the Professor's mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. And the numbers, in all of their articulate order, reveal a sheltering and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her young son. The Professor is capable of discovering connections between the simplest of quantities - like the Housekeeper's shoe size - and the universe at large, drawing their lives ever closer and more profoundly together, even as his memory slips away. - from amazon.com

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