

CASTEEL HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2019

CCHS Staff selects an optional summer reading school 'challenge' instead of the conventional English class requirement. This mindset encourages a positive shift combining interest, enthusiasm, achievement, and collaboration under a common theme. In his article, "Build a Better World: Collaborative Summer Reading Program, 2017," Rosales suggests that designating a yearly theme helps keep an

academic focus but also allows for a variety of reading options, such as fiction, nonfiction, contemporary and classics, diverse choices for all students. This new way of approaching summer reading does not dismiss educational integrity; rather this innovation enhances a community of readers that associate reading in everyday life as opposed to a school assignment (Okyle 2015).



This year's theme, *A Social Adventure*, promotes reading as a community event and establishes, "...the expectation that reading is what we do, always, everywhere, it becomes the heart of a class' culture." (Miller 2009). Staff and students recommended texts on our English 7-12 List in order to encourage discussion of common titles. While most of our reading challenge is *optional*, our Advanced Placement and College Prep English courses are *required*, as the objectives of these classes involve prolific literary knowledge not possible to complete within the school year alone. These students, however, still enjoy the freedom of choice using College Board reading suggestions and will interact socially in class using the ideas gained over summer.

CCHS foresees, based on Miller's research in *The Book Whisperer*, a reading culture that builds each year, engaging more and more participants to read for enjoyment without the stress of summer assignments (2009). The ELA Department looks forward to using Long's 2011 approach of using books that engage student interest in order to support the teaching of in-class academic reads.

Works Cited

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