Upper School Summer Reading 2018 – Student & Family Information

General Overview: Each student enrolled in St. Paul's Upper School is required to participate in Summer Reading. The goals of the SP Summer Reading Program are to engage members of all facets of the Upper School community in shared reading experiences that focus on reading as an enjoyable practice not limited to only the walls of the classroom. We want students to see that their teachers, administrators, staff and fellow students do read for fun, and to share in that with adults and their peers. For that reason, book discussion groups are at the heart of the program, ensuring that each shared experience is engaging and unique.

Assignment Parameters: Each SP student must read at least one book from the posted list, and participate effectively in the discussion led by the book sponsor. Which book to choose from the list is up to the student’s preference, and the specific guidelines of each discussion are up to the particular sponsor of the corresponding group for each text. Students who read additional books beyond the minimum requirement will receive extra credit on their first quarter English grade if they also participate in the discussions satisfactorily. If a student has, prior to this summer, read a book on the list, he may participate in the discussion for fun, but NOT for credit. The point is to choose something new.

How do I participate?

1. Go to the school website and look for the “Summer Enrichment” page where you will find the link to the SP Summer Reading database.
   o List of books, along with sponsor information, the format and dates of each discussion, etc.
     - For electronic discussions: link to enter the discussion will also appear.
     - For in-person discussions: date, location and the email/contact information for the sponsor will be provided.
   o Students should scan this list, read the book descriptions, and choose a book that seems interesting.
   o Get a copy of the text, either from a local library, bookstore, or e-book. Locally, most libraries have copies of every book on the list, and the Ivy Bookshop offers a 10% discount to students who make their summer reading purchases there if you let them know you’re from SP.
     www.theivybookshop.com
   o Start reading as soon as possible and ensure that reading is finished by the date when the discussion is scheduled to begin.
   o If the student has questions or concerns at any point, he should contact the book discussion sponsor directly in order to get clarification.

2. On the day of the discussion: Join the group and follow directions provided by the sponsor

3. Participate accordingly.
   o Again, if there are questions about requirements or expectations, students should not hesitate to ask.
     Most electronic discussions will require each student to answer a few questions about his experience with the book, pose questions to fellow members of the group, and to engage actively in the forum.

4. Once the discussion has concluded: Sponsor will notify students whether they have met requirements or if further follow-up is needed. Sponsor will record a pass/fail in the Summer Reading Database, and this info. will be collected by English teachers in the fall.

5. If a student’s participation in the group was not satisfactory:
   o Student should either follow-up according to the sponsor’s instructions
   OR
   o Student should read a different book and participate in that discussion in order to receive credit.

6. As long as the student has actually completed the reading of the chosen text, he should have little trouble meeting the requirements of the discussion.

7. If there are more significant questions about the Summer Reading process, etc. they should be directed to Matt Conant, Upper School English Department Chair (mconant@stpaulsschool.org)
Summer Reading FAQs

• We’re going away this summer and won’t have internet access during that time. Is it still possible to participate in a discussion group?
  o Ideally, each student should pick a book that is holding discussion at a time that is convenient for him to participate. However, if he really wants to read a book for which the discussion is held at an inconvenient time, he should email the sponsor (using the contact information on the Summer Reading link of the website) BEFORE departing for vacation, summer camp, etc. to make alternate arrangements if possible. Most sponsors will be accommodating if they can be.

• How should students choose a book?
  o It’s really about individual preference. There is always a strong variety of options from non-fiction, to poetry, to best-sellers, to classics. The Summer Reading link on the SP website will also direct him to the Amazon page for each book so that he can access reviews, summaries, etc. to see if the book is appealing.

• I'm a new student and won't have an SP email account or anything yet. Can I log in to the discussions and Summer Reading information?
  o No log in is required to access the Summer Reading link. Most of the discussions won’t require a login either. If a specific issue arises, feel free to contact Mrs. Bean or your book sponsor for help.

• A student does not have a facebook account. Can he still participate in a facebook discussion?
  o You can create an account just for the purpose of the discussion and then delete it. When a student joins a group, it does not mean that he “friends” any other members of the group, nor can they see each other’s private Facebook pages, accounts, etc. You may want to check individual privacy settings if this is a concern, and it might be a good way to have a conversation about privacy, social media, etc. with parents/your child at that time.
  o If a student or his family prefer that he not have an account, even temporarily, he should email the book sponsor to let him/her know that he cannot participate in the online discussion, and ask if other arrangements can be made. Or, he may contact Mr. Conant if there is a bigger issue.

• I read a book, but missed the discussion. Can I still get credit?
  o Maybe. It would be advisable to read another book for which the discussion is still upcoming and participate in that one. However, contact the book sponsor if there was a reasonable explanation for missing the discussion to see if there are alternate arrangements that can be made. Forgetting about the discussion date or not being aware that it had already occurred are not “reasonable explanations” though. Students should be aware of discussion dates BEFORE choosing a book, as the date should be a consideration for availability, etc.

• I already read one of the books on the list. Can I use this as my summer reading?
  o No. The point of the program is for students to read something new and to share that experience with others. It would be a violation of the spirit of the program if he simply ‘recycled’ something that he’d already done previously. He is certainly welcome, however, to participate in the discussion if he would like to, as long as he notifies the sponsor that he is not doing so “for credit”.

Please direct all other inquiries to Mr. Matt Conant Upper School English Department Chair at mconant@stpaulsschool.org