



Navigating through... Special Education

Summer Tips on Preventing

“Summer Regression”

Jeffrey J. Baum

Jericho High School Special Education Facilitator

If you have a child who is classified and has an Individualized Education Plan or IEP, often extended summer year services can be provided if you meet the criteria of regression. Extended Year Services or ESY is defined as “A student who is eligible for 12 month service or program when the period of review or re-teaching required to recoup a skill or knowledge level attained by the end of the prior school year would be anticipated to exceed 8 weeks.” This can be measured by looking at a student’s regression after weekends and particularly after extended absences where performance exhibited prior to the absence takes many days to regain the skills taught. Extended Summer Year services can include, but not limited to be Learning Center, Reading, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy. That’s all very well and good, but what if your child does not meet that requirement, and does not receive such services. What is a parent to do? Two words: **SUMMER READING**. According to Harvard University’s James S. Kim, Ed.D., assistant professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of education, kids who read during the summer tend to be better prepared academically, and need less review, for school in the fall. Here are some tips to get your child to “crack the books” and a list of grade level novels that are suggested by the English Department and may be some of the books your child will be reading in the fall.



- **Mix Light Reading with School Assignment Reading.** Leisure reading is important and improves both vocabulary and comprehension. Don't turn reading into a classroom exercise. Encourage your child to read for pleasure. If your child decides to get ahead start on the incoming school year's reading, then it should be balanced with light reading.



- **Smooth Reading Bumps.** Kids with ADHD or LD may need the assistance from downloading books to your computer, ipod or "electronic reader" to acquire and aide in decoding skills, fluency and comprehension. Students and Parents can log onto <http://www.texthelp.com/page.asp> which is the Read & Write Gold Program. Read and Write Gold is computer software designed to help students with reading, writing and learning. This software was designed to help students, who are struggling readers, have learning difficulties such as dyslexia and attention deficit disorder, English Language Learners, and students who have visual impairments.

In June, make arrangements with your school to get the novels your child will be reading in English for the next school year so that your child can get a jump start on the first novel of the year.



- **Read at the right level.** Books should fit a child's reading level. If the novel your child receives for English is too difficult find out if there is an abridged version. You may want to read the novel together with your child.



- **Volume Counts.** There's a strong relationship between the number of books read and a child's improvement in reading ability. Reading at least four or five books each summer produces big skill saving. Popular series-Harry Potter and others-are especially good at keeping your child reading.



- **Be Creative.** As stated above you may want to pair an audio book with the print version, and let your child read silently along with the narrator. If you have a really cooperative child, you may want to try and take turns reading to one another, reading it aloud while your child follows along as you read. Additionally, if the novel your child's reading has been made into a movie (i.e.: The Great Gatsby), it may be easier

Recommended 9th Grade Book List

- House on Mango Street- Sandra Cisneros
- Balzac and the Chinese Seamstress- Dai Sijie
- Of Mice and Men- John Steinbeck
- Old Man and the Sea-Ernest Hemingway
- Romeo & Juliet- William Shakespeare
- To Kill a Mockingbird-Tennessee Williams
- Year of Impossible Goodbyes- Sook Nyul Choi
- The Glass Menagerie- Tennessee Williams
- Three Cups of Tea- Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin

Recommended 10th Grade Book List

- Black Boy- Richard Wright
- Lord of the Flies-William Golding
- Anthem-Ayn Rand
- Catcher in the Rye- J.D.Salinger
- Antigone- Sophocles
- Julius Caesar-William Shakespeare
- Animal Farm-George Orwell
- Our Town- Thornton Wilder

Recommended 11th Grade Book List

- The Great Gatsby-F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Scarlet Letter-Hawthorne
- Macbeth-William Shakespeare
- The Crucible-Arthur Miller
- Night- Elie Weisel
- Huckleberry Finn- Mark Twain
- Death of a Salesman- Arthur Miller
- 1984- George Orwell
- Jane Eyre-Charlotte Bronte
- Their Eyes Are Watching God- Zora Neale Hurston

Recommended 12th Grade Book List

- Oedipus Rex-Sophocles
- Beowulf- Burton Raffel
- Hamlet- William Shakespeare
- The Stranger- Albert Camus
- Canterbury Tales- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Life of Pi- Yann Martel
- The Secret Life of Bees- Sue Monk Kidd
- Ethan Frome- Edith Wharton

The importance of maintaining or getting ahead of your child's reading skills during the summer months cannot be understated enough. Whether your child is reading to get ahead of the curve by starting to read grade-level novels or reading for fun they are likely to increase their vocabulary and comprehension and keep from regressing. If your child is taking an AP Literature or an AP Comp Class, you should visit the website that lists summer assignments for a more comprehensive list of books and assignments.