

Billerica Public Schools
Central Services Offices
365 Boston Road
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821
Telephone: (978) 528-7900

Billerica Memorial High School Summer Reading Program

June 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Students Entering Grades 10 - 12:

The best thing you can do over the summer to be prepared for learning in September is to read – read anything and everything!

Massachusetts 2017 Curriculum Frameworks in English Language Arts and Literacy define literacy as “the ability to read, write, speak, and understand words.” In order to promote continued literacy development for all students, Billerica Memorial High School is continuing its high school summer reading program. **All incoming and returning students are required to participate.** While the primary purpose of the program is to encourage students to continue to work their reading muscles, its goal is also to help instill in our students a love of reading by providing students with the opportunity to choose books that speak to their individual interests.

All students are required to read just one book and **students are not limited in their choices.** Any book at an appropriately challenging and readable level for the student is a good choice. [Click here to see a list of recommendations for students entering Grades 8 and 9.](#) Many appropriate titles for all grades are available at the Billerica Public Library and library staff is always happy to help your student choose a book.

I have worked with teachers to ensure our recommendations are age-appropriate but **I encourage parents and caregivers to review student reading choices with their students.** Literature and other materials aimed at young adults often and deliberately mimic the language teens use and address the topics and themes that mean the most to them. Students are free to read a variety of themes, materials, and ideas to present a broad range of perspectives, and the district does not endorse any particular viewpoint. Parental or caregiver support as children read is important, particularly for our younger students.

We encourage students to read in preparation for the first full day of school. In their English classes, they will be expected to have read a book and have completed the attached guided questions form, either on paper or online. Students will then complete a writing sample which is an important tool that helps teachers support further development of student writing skills.

Thank you for helping us to make this summer reading activity productive and successful! If you have any questions regarding this program, its requirements, or the directions, please call Marian Dyer at (978) 528- 2849.

Sincerely,



Marian Dyer, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator
Billerica Memorial High School

Billerica Memorial High School

Summer Reading Program Guiding Questions – [\[click to access and copy the Google Doc\]](#)

Due: September 5, 2023

Each student is responsible for composing an original writing sample based upon his/her summer reading book selection. This will be done in class during the first week of school and will be an important tool to help teachers understand where your writing is already strong and where you will need the most help. In order to compose samples, you are **required** to respond to the reading questions below. Completion of these questions is essential as it will allow you to recall key information that will help you complete your summer reading writing sample and to draw personal connections to the reading. Type as much as you want into the boxes in the right-side column; if you've printed it and more space is needed, please attach additional paper.

1. What is the title of your book/podcast?	
2. Who is the author/creator?	
3. Why did you choose this book/podcast?	
4. What is the author's purpose?	
5. Describe the main characters in the book/podcast – who are they? What is important about them? How do they change?	
6. Describe the story or the main ideas in this material.	
7. If you could ask the author one question about this, what would you ask? Why?	
8. What did you learn or discover from reading this book?	

<p>9. Describe something from this book/podcast that you can personally relate to.</p>	
<p>10. A friend asks you whether they should read this book – what do you say? Be sure to explain your reasons.</p>	