

## How to respond to your reading—

In order to earn a grade for summer reading, you will need to complete a response to each book you read. This response can be in any format you choose—it only needs to show your teacher that you completely read and understood the book that you chose.

Here is a list of possible responses that you may choose from—

- Journal entries
- Movie-style poster
- Book review
- Storyboard
- Novel soundtrack with designed CD case
- Collage
- Computerized book trailer
- Power point presentation
- Letter to the author
- Book talk
- Write the book from a different point of view
- Character diary
- Character interview
- Design a new book jacket
- Create a newspaper for your book
- Act out and record a scene from the book



Parents should be involved in the selection of their child's summer reading. Book reviews are available on the district website.

[Http://www.newberry.k12.sc.us](http://www.newberry.k12.sc.us)

**Summer reading projects will be due to the English teacher no later than the second Friday of the new school year. Projects will be weighted as a major test/project grade. All honors students are expected to read two books and create two projects.**

*Don't see a book you like?*

Work with your English teacher, librarian, or book store to find an appropriate title for your age and interests. Explore options from the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominations. Enjoy!

School District of Newberry County



# High School Summer Reading Challenge

**Suggestions for students  
enrolled in English I and  
English II**

## English I

**A Time for Dancing by Davida Willis Hurwin**—Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.

**Till Death Do Us Part by Lurlene McDaniel**—Diagnosed with an inoperable tumor, eighteen-year-old April faces an uncertain future with her fiancé Mark, a race car driver with cystic fibrosis, who suffers a terrible accident and forces April to make a difficult decision.

**Slam! by Walter Dean Myers**—Sixteen-year-old “Slam” Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life. Unfortunately, his coach sees things differently.

**Mick Harte Was Here by Barbara Park**—This is Phoebe’s brilliantly told story of her younger brother and best friend, Mick, who dies in a bicycle accident. Her struggle to accept his death and deal with her own grief is told in a way that will evoke laughter and tears.

**Harris and Me: a Summer Remembered by Gary Paulsen**—Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

**Eragon by Christopher Paolini**—In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

**Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix**—In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family’s farm, until a “third” convinces him that the government is wrong. (*First in the Shadow Series; students may read any book in the series for credit.*)

**Breaking Through by Francisco Jimenez**—Francisco Jimenez, 14, together with his older brother Roberto and his mother, are caught by la migra. Forced to leave their home, the entire family travels all night for twenty hours by bus, arriving at the U.S. and Mexican border in Nogales, Arizona. In the months and years that follow, Francisco, his mother and father, and his seven brothers and sister not only struggle to keep their family together, but also face crushing poverty, long hours of labor, and blatant prejudice. How they sustain their hope, their good-heartedness, and tenacity is revealed in this moving sequel to *The Circuit*.

## English II

**Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson**—Melinda is an outcast. No one will speak to her or look at her. Soon she stops to speak to anyone. What is it that caused such a change in her during the summer before 9th grade? And how will she cope with it?

**Someone Like You by Sarah Dessen**—Halley’s junior year of high school includes the death of her best friend Scarlett’s boyfriend, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley’s own first serious relationship.

**Night Hoops by Carl Deuker**—While trying to prove that he is good enough to be in his high school’s varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents’ divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

**You Don’t Know Me by David Klass**—Fourteen year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother’s abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful but shallow classmate, and other problems at school.

**Angels Watching Over Me by Lurlene McDaniel**—Cynical Leah Lewis-Hall, stuck in the hospital alone during the holidays, learns about the miracles of love, faith, and angels when she meets the loving family of her roommate, a young Amish girl named Rebekah. (*Part of the Angels Trilogy—students may read any of the three for credit.*)

**The Beast by Walter Dean Myers**—A teenager from Harlem struggles to save his girlfriend from herself when she develops a drug problem while he is away at a Connecticut prep school.

**The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold**—Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice.

**Hard Ball by Will Weaver**—A fourteen-year-old Minnesota farm boy has to figure out how to get along with his arch-rival in his love life and on the baseball diamond, and both boys must learn how to deal with the unfair expectations of their fathers.

**Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares**—A funky pair of dungarees and a strong friendship lie at the heart of this compelling coming-of-age novel. During the first summer they’ll be separated from each other, four friends share a pair of second-hand jeans...and experience happiness, heart-break, and all the complications of growing up. (*First in the series; students may read any book in the series for credit.*)

**Eldest by Christopher Paolini**—In this sequel to *Eragon*, the teenage boy and his blue-scaled dragon are destined to free the realm of Alagaesia from the clutches of the ruthless king Galbatorix—or die trying. Eragon needs more training to defeat the king, so he sets off for the land of the elves on a quest to complete his education as a Dragon Rider.

**Estrella’s Quinceanera by Allegría Malin**—Since she started a new school, Estrella’s life has changed. She can no longer relate to her old friends, her new friends make her feel like a phony, and her friends and her father don’t approve of her new boyfriend. She wants to please everybody and therefore pleases no one. She has to figure out what she wants for herself before she goes forward with her quinceanera.



Reading is to the  
mind what exercise  
is to the body.

~Joseph Addison

### No Book Left Unread!

The school district would like all students to participate in the South Carolina State Department of Education summer reading challenge. Complete the reading log distributed by English teachers to participate. Turn in your log of all pages read when you return in August. Parents can get more information at <http://Martha.alewine.googlepages.com>.