What is the Deer Park ISD philosophy behind summer reading?
Deer Park ISD encourages all students to read during the summer to:

- Help students maintain English Language Arts skills over the summer break.
-Expose students to quality literature that they might not pick up on their own.
- Promote independent reading, inquiry, and scholarship which will facilitate students as life-long learners.

How were the books chosen for these lists?
Pre-AP and AP English teachers and administrators met to discuss and determine the reading list. Books were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Appropriate readability for independent summer reading
- High interest for students at the designated grade level.

SUMMER READING FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 7TH OR 8TH GRADE PAP ELA COURSES IS A GRADED REQUIREMENT.

For students enrolled in 6th grade PAP or any regular ELA course, reading a book off of this list and completing one of the projects during the summer can earn them up to 3 points of extra-credit on their first nine week’s grade. Projects must be turned in by the end of the third week of school.

Option 1  Character Journal
A character journal is a journal/diary written from the perspective of a character in a book. The reader writes in the first-person voice of the character in response to the unfolding of events in the book, much like a personal journal/diary you might keep for yourself. A character journal helps you as a reader CONNECT with a character. It proves your understanding of what a character goes through - thoughts, actions, emotions, hopes, feelings, plans. The character must express his/her inner feelings about what is happening to him/her. In keeping a character journal, the reader becomes more involved in the literature being read and attains a deeper immersion in the role of the character.

Directions
Your character journal must include at least four entries; each entry must be at least 200 words in length. Each entry must be original. Grades will be based on the quality of writing, the chances taken, and the degree to which you are able to capture the character or show insight into the character’s plight.

Option 2  Letter to the Author
Write a letter of at least 500 words in which you discuss the author’s work. Your letter should include at least one of the following:

- Discussion/question about theme
- Discussion/question about character
- Discussion/question about setting
- Discussion/question about the author’s inspiration for the story

Directions
Even though the letter is relatively informal, it must be written in well-organized paragraphs. Every point you make or question you have should be supported with a specific textual reference, including a direct quote and page number. If you praise the author, explain what specific choices the author made and explain how it contributed to the novel’s effectiveness. If you want to complain about something, the same holds true. Cite a specific choice that you think did not work effectively and explain why it didn’t work. Your grade will be based on the thoughtfulness of your responses.

Option 3  Technology Project
Create a movie trailer for the novel using iMovie or a similar program. iMovie is free and very user friendly. The trailer must be original and cannot use any ideas from a trailer that has already been created. The trailer must address thematic content and focus on the problem that is to be resolved. Minimum 2 minute video.

Or...create a slide show presentation using power point, prezi, or any other similar program. Focus on thematic content with support from the text. Your grade will be based on the depth of your interaction with the text.
**6TH GRADE READING OPTIONS**

- **Treasure Island** by Robert Lewis Stevenson (classic)
  This book tells of Jim Hawkin’s boyhood adventure on a quest for buried treasure.

- **White Fang** by Jack London (classic)
  White Fang is part dog and part wolf and the lone survivor of his family. This is a story of his journey to domestication.

- **Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary**, Gail Jarrow (literary nonfiction)
  This gripping story follows three people whose lives collide as typhoid fever kills thousands of Americans.

- **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio** by Peg Kehret (nonfiction)
  Peg Kehret tells of her struggle to survive a severe case of polio.

- **A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L’Engle (science fantasy)
  Meg’s father has disappeared, and Meg, her friend, Calvin, and her little brother, Charles Wallace, must travel through space and time to rescue him.

- **Ten Days a Madwoman**, Deborah Noyes (literary nonfiction)
  At the end of the 19th century Nellie Bly, an aspiring journalist, fakes insanity and is committed to an asylum in order to expose the horrific treatment of its patients.

- **Some Kind of Courage** by Dan Gemeinhart (historical fiction)
  Joseph Johnson has lost just about everyone he’s ever loved, and now, he’s lost his pony--fast, fierce, beautiful Sarah. He can sure enough get her back, though. The odds are stacked against him, but he isn’t about to give up.

- **How Lunchbox Jones Saved Me** by Jennifer Brown (contemporary fiction)
  With nonstop laughs and enough heart to make even a mechanical robot shed a tear, readers will enjoy the tales of Luke Abbott.

- **The Mighty Miss Malone**, Christopher Paul Curtis (historical fiction)
  Being smart is not enough to save Deza Malone’s family from the ravages of the Great Depression, but the strength of their family will see them through.

- **I Am Malala** (young readers version) by Yousafzai (literary nonfiction)
  When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

- **Three Times Lucky** by Sheila Turnage (contemporary)
  This is a story of mystery, small town feelings, and adventure with a humorous character, Mo LoBeau.

- **The Fourth Stall** by Chris Rylander (contemporary fiction)
  Mac is a problem solver and Vince is a whiz at keeping track of the money and favors they earn while running an office in the 4th stall in an underused school bathroom.