FONTBONNE
The Early College of Boston

May 11, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to share details about Fontbonne's **Summer Reading Program** at this time. Fontbonne's incoming grades 7 - 9 students will participate in a **Common Reading Program** which involves reading the same book in order to create common ground for discussion with classmates. In partnership with BC High, Middle School students will read *A World Without Summer* by Nicholas Day (ISBN: **978-0593643877**). For the third consecutive year, middle school students will be invited to an event at BC High to meet the author and enjoy activities with BC High students. Incoming ninth graders will read Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees.* Prospective grades 10-12 students will select their summer reading book before May 21st and participate in small group discussions with teachers, staff, and students on campus during our **Summer Reading Day** in September.

In preparation for our eighth annual Summer Reading Day, Fontbonne's English Department compiled a list of around 60 books suggested in handbooks and journals as well as recommendations from people in our school community**.** Our goal with this yearly event is to inspire a love of reading**,** promote a sense of community, and foster collaboration and cross-disciplinary practice. You will notice we are offering students a wide variety of books, so it is important to carefully consider whether the material will be engaging and appropriate for each reader. Students and their families may review the slideshow (distributed to students on 5/8/26)2026 Summer Reading Slideshow before **students select 3 books of interest** from the list of offerings. All students will be placed in **one** of their top 3 book choices and notified of their summer reading assignment in early June. Since we do not allow students to switch book assignments after the groups have been established, we encourage you to review the list along with your child in order to guide and discuss their selection process. A full display of our summer reading books and a list of book groups for 2026 will be posted in June.

Book groups, including our Adult Learning Community (ALC) members, sophomore, junior, and senior students, and AP Literature student leaders will meet in September during our Summer Reading Day. We will also invite some members of the extended Fontbonne community to return to campus to share their love of reading with our students. ALC book leaders will participate in the discussion and evaluate each student's level of engagement; they will determine whether each student has fulfilled their obligations as a prepared participant in the book group (40 points). English teachers will evaluate written work recorded on the book form connected to summer reading (60 points). If your child is absent and misses our Summer Reading Day, they should still submit the book form on time to their English teacher. Students who miss their book group session should develop a make-up plan for the discussion with their English teacher. The English Department will help coordinate make-up book group sessions or arrange a one-on-one discussion with one of the English teachers. The summer reading grade will count toward your student's first term English grade.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments you have about Fontbonne's Summer Reading Program. Best wishes for an enjoyable spring, a successful ending to the school year, and some quality time to nurture a love of reading with your family over the summer.

Sincerely,

Susan F. Sullivan, English Department Chairperson
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