

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ COMMON SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Common Summer Reading Program is on hiatus currently, so there is no required reading. See below for a list of past selections.

Why has the SUNY New Paltz Composition Program traditionally required first-year students to read over the summer?

SUNY New Paltz, like many colleges and universities across the country, has implemented a common summer reading program for several years for a number of reasons. We want to reinforce the principle that engaging in critical reading is an important part of being a member of an academic community. To that end, we often create a study guide that includes discussion questions and writing assignments to help students think about the text(s) as they are reading. We also hope that this program will provide a means by which our incoming students become part of the academic community here at SUNY New Paltz. By encouraging first-year students to engage in critical reading, discussion, and to think about rhetorical situations in written and oral texts—whether in their Composition classrooms or in extracurricular settings—the reading initiative invites dialogue among students as well as between students and faculty.

A Timeline of Summer Reading Selections Since 2000:

- 2016 TED Talks and corresponding articles, Various Authors
- 2015 *Letters of Note*, Ed., Shaun Usher
- 2014 Graduation and Commencement Speeches, Various Authors
- 2013 *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, David Sedaris
- 2012 *A Good Fall*, Ha Jin (with Asian Studies)
- 2011 *War Dances*, Sherman Alexie (One Book, One New Paltz)
- 2010 *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Safran Foer
- 2009 *Old School*, Tobias Wolff (keynote lecture by the author)
- 2008 *Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi
- 2007 *The Futurist*, James P. Othmer
- 2006 *Sounds of the River*, Da Chen (with Asian Studies)
- 2005 *The Dewbreaker*, Edwidge Danticat
- 2004 Excerpts from *Soul of a Citizen*, Paul Loeb
- 2003 Excerpts from *The Souls of Black Folk*, W.E.B. DuBois
- 2002 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Mark Haddon
- 2001 *Memories of my Ghost Brother*, Heinz Insu Fenkl
- 2000 *Making the Memorial*, Maya Lin