

Summer Reading--Fun in the Sun?

The idea of having to do homework over the summer strikes fear into the hearts of most students. But there were approximately 130 at this school who did have assignments over the summer. These were the AP English classes of each grade. Each summer, these ambitious people were responsible for reading anywhere from three to five books, such as *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Some teachers also required their classes to write essays on these books.

If these essays were not handed in on the first day of school, the student was not permitted to remain in the class.

In the spring, the four AP English teachers, Mrs. Klefas, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Alley, and Mr. Graler meet with the students who will be in their class the upcoming year. In this meeting they hand out the feared reading list, and answer any questions the students might have.

Freshman Liz Sundermann remembered, "I had heard rumors in Junior High that at the High School you had to read books over the summer, but I didn't believe it until we actually had the meeting."

"We give them reading and writing assignments over the summer to keep their mind working, so they don't get out of practice..."

-Wanna Simmons

Sophomore teacher Wanna Simmons stated, "We give them reading and writing assignments over the summer to keep their mind working, so they don't get out of practice. We also save a lot of class time by having them get some of the reading out of the way during the summer."

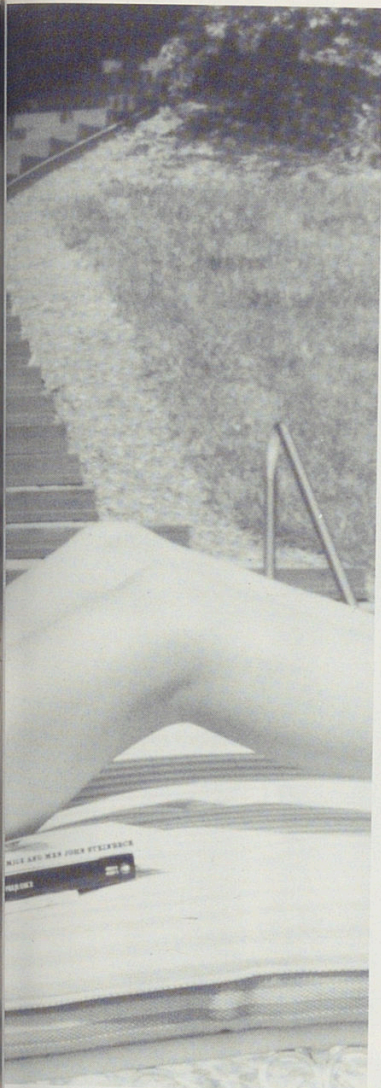
The AP classes generally move at a faster rate than the other levels, because of the greater amount of material they have to cover. In the first weeks of school, the classroom discussion revolved around these books. In this way, students could cover the material of four

books in the time that it took other classes to cover one or two, because valuable time was not wasted on the reading of the books.

The junior and senior members of the AP classes have learned to deal with the summer reading, and by their third summer of it, have usually worked out their own personal method of getting the books read on time.

It did not really matter when they did it, as long as they got it done before the first day of school. So the next time one sees that person laying out by the pool reading *Of Mice and Men*, it is probably an AP English student.

by Courtney Shackelford



The 1st place OTSA sophomore English team: **Front Row--**J. Hume, A. Donovan. **Back Row--**A. Roberson, K. Bennet, Mrs. Simmons.

Avanti Ambekar takes time out of her lunch hour to read and take notes from a novel she is reading for English.

