

Novel supplemental reading program disappointing to few, exciting to many

Grimsley initiates a new program in attempt to raise SAT scores and share the joy of reading.

By Sara Nelson
Reporter

Reading for pleasure may seem like a paradox to some. To others, books are not only a pastime but a way of life. With its new supplemental reading program, Grimsley hopes to make all of its students enjoy reading, while simultaneously boosting SAT scores.

Starting this quarter, all English students will be required to read a certain number of pages outside of class. Students enrolled in CP English will have to read 300 pages outside of class in order to earn a 100. Honors, AP and IB English students will have to read 600 pages.

The program was started to boost EOC and SAT verbal scores, but more importantly, to instill in all students a love for reading, which is a pastime that has fallen by the wayside with the advent of technological advances such as the Internet, cell phones, and the Game Cube. "We don't read enough," said Mrs. Teague, "We hope that [the pro-

gram] will make reading more fun. We learn about life, about people, and about ourselves through reading."

The pages a student chooses to read can be from a book of his choice. But they must be from a book. Poems, as well as newspaper and magazine articles, will not count. Books must be registered with and approved by English teachers. Students will be held accountable for their reading by giving book talks to their English teacher. Reports must be given on a book the student has not read before, and summer or required reading will not count.

Any book a student chooses to report on will be entered in a log. This log will follow the student for their entire four years at Grimsley. The purpose of the log is to ensure that a student does not report on the same book twice.

The reading program will count 5% of a student's total English grade this year. Next fall, the reading will count 10% of the grade. Percentage values will increase each semester until the supplemental reading accounts for 20% of a student's English grade.

Naturally, student reaction to this new program is varied, just



Bartow photo

Juniors Katie Swofford and Clayton Woodward browse in the Media Center following the announcement of the new reading program beginning at Grimsley. Each of them must read 600 pages for their Honors English class in order to receive the maximum score.

as attitudes toward reading are varied. Some students are not bothered by the program. "I don't think it's going to be a problem because we did it in Dr. Smith's class, only we had to read 1,000 pages. This is giving us the opportunity to read what we want and get credit for it," said Kim Hodgman, a senior. Mrs. Teague agrees with

Hodgman's philosophy. She said, "People who really like to read sometimes don't get credit for it." Part of the program will involve giving incentives, such as cash, to top readers.

However, some students do not like the idea of the reading program. "I don't think we should be forced to read and be held accountable for it be-

cause it takes the joy out of reading," said sophomore Maggie Link.

Whether or not the supplemental reading program increases test scores or makes students like reading more remains to be seen. In the meantime, you better get started reading those books.

North Carolina adoption rates peak

A pair of siblings at Grimsley share a unique adoption story.

By Hannah Wineburg
Reporter

Children in Guilford County awaiting adoption do not have to wait as long as others did five years ago. Due to the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the adoption process is much more expedient than ever before.

According to Guilford County Department of Social Services, 44 children living in foster care or group homes have been adopted since July 1, 2001. One hundred more children are expected to be adopted by June of 2002. Moreover, during the last fiscal year, 182 children were adopted in Guilford County alone, an increase from the previous year.

Ms. Rebecca Menchaca, a Masters of Social Work intern at North Carolina Kids Adoption & Foster Care Agency, states that there are approximately 130 public and private adoption agencies in the state of North Carolina. One of them changed the lives of two Grimsley students.

Brother and sister, junior Zach and freshman Zoe Lauenstein, were adopted about a month after birth from Children's Home Society of North Carolina, a private adoption agency. Coming from the same biological parents, Zach and Zoe's adoptive situation is unique.

By law, adoptive parents Dr. Kurt Lauenstein and Dr. Sherry Dickstein had to wait one month after their children's birthdays before they could take their children into their home. During the month be-

tween their birthday and their adoptive day, Zach and Zoe stayed in a foster home set up by staff at Children's Home Society of North Carolina, the agency used to adopt the children.

When Zach was two years old, his parents, Dr. Lauenstein and Dr. Dickstein, decided to begin the adoption process once again. Coincidentally, and unbeknownst to Lauenstein and Dickstein, Zach's biological parents were expecting—this time it was a girl.

Dr. Lauenstein and Dr. Dickstein, unaware that they were going to adopt Zach's biological sister until nearly the end of the adoption procedure, were overwhelmed with joy because of this rarity.

Today, neither brother nor sister is preoccupied with being adopted. They also agree

that meeting their biological parents, when age appropriate, is not necessary. Zoe said, "I don't know about meeting them [her biological parents], but I do want to see pictures."

Zach and Zoe compare their birthday to their adoption day. Zach said, "My adoption day is like my birthday because it's celebrating the start of my life with my new family." Zoe enjoys this day for other reasons as well. She said, "It's one more present I get, and it gives me a chance to look back and remember how I got here."

The 1997 law has helped accelerate adoption processes for domestic and international adoptions. In Guilford County, there are still between 190 and 200 children in foster care waiting to be adopted. Zach and Zoe are happy that they were chosen early on.

NC Adoption Statistics

Gender
Male: 49%
Female: 51%

Age
Under 1: 4%
1-5: 46%
6-10: 32%
11-15: 16%
16-18: 2%

Race
White: 42%
Black: 52%
Hispanic: 4%
Asian/Pacific
Islander: 1%
Alaskan Native
American: 1%
Other: 1%

Adopt Foster Care and Reporting System

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Many are upset by the lack of discussion of "history months."

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