

Summer reading program is a best seller

Tates Creek High School senior Michael Stone contributed to this article.

Librarians and English teachers at Tates Creek High School worked together recently to turn a dreaded summer staple into a new tradition. Most students groan at the thought of the annual summer reading list, but with the help of more than 100 volunteers and a fresh list of novels, the Tates Creek teens said they enjoyed the experience.

“I actually read the book this year because it was up-to-date and I liked it more than the boring book I half-read the summer before my freshman year,” said senior Garrett Dillingham.

Before the end of the school year last spring, students were given a list of books to choose from. When developing the lists, which were tailored for each grade level 9-12, librarians said they looked for contemporary novels and best sellers centered on topics that would interest both male and female readers.

When they returned to campus this fall, students were able to select from more than 100 discussion groups led by teachers, retired teachers and community members.

“The group discussions helped me understand the book a lot better,” said junior Darvonna Minix.

The new format was such a hit that Tates Creek plans to do it again next year, with a new list of books.

“The summer reading discussions were fun, and this is the first year I had a chance to sit and talk about the book instead of just doing an assignment,” said junior Andrew Roe. “Jude is one of the best books I’ve ever read.”