

The summer reading requirement for Spectrum students is three books, but those books will vary depending on the section in which you are placed. Your section placement will not be determined until at least August 1, so here is the plan.

For the sake of convenience, we are calling the assigned texts the June book, the July book, and the August book (based on the thought that a student might read one book per month on her/his way to completion of the task).

For the June book, you have a choice: No Impact Man by Colin Beavan or Eaarth by Bill McKibben. In the former Beavan and his family live an entire year in New York City, trying to make as tiny a carbon footprint as possible. McKibben, who also wrote The End of Nature, thinks we've already changed the planet and describes how we might make a "soft landing."

The July book is for everyone; it is The Help by Kathryn Stockett. This is a civil rights era novel, set in Jackson, Mississippi, about the relationship between a young white woman of some privilege and the African-American women who keep house for many families in town.

As for the August book, we will notify you by e-mail as soon as the sections are determined. So keep an eye on your e-mail as July turns to August.

One more point: For any of you who might read one or even two books by mid-July and want to get the quizzes out of the way, we're offering two test dates: Thursday, July 28, 6:30pm; and Tuesday, August 2, 9:30am; both will be in room B105.

(There are several copies of No Impact Man in Room B105 for anyone who's interested.)