Dear Blair Sophomore,

Since good readers make good writers and good readers make good thinkers, each student entering Montgomery Blair High School in September is required to complete reading and writing assignments in preparation for the fall semester.

The Particulars:

• The work counts towards 1st marking period.
• The work is due September 5th or 6th.
  The deadline is September 7th or 8th.

Choosing a Book:

• Please do not select previously read works or middle school titles.
• Select titles on or above your reading level.
• Read the directions carefully and complete all assignments.
• You can find any appropriate books at your local library. There is no need to purchase a book, but you may do so if you wish. In any case, please have your book with you when you return to school.
• Call if you have questions: (301) 649-2856. Leave a message with a phone number if you reach the machine.

Late Enrollment:

• Students who enroll after the semester begins will have 3 weeks to submit the assignment.

READING ASSIGNMENT

Choose and read (for Grade 10):

One Work of Fiction

For your book, choose a novel or drama that interests you. Some suggestions follow, but you are not limited to these titles. Ask your teachers, friends, and parents for advice if you are having difficulty choosing.

The Blacker the Berry, Wallace Thurman
The Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood
East of Eden, John Steinbeck
Herland, Charlotte Gilman
The Iliad, Homer
In Darkness, Nick Lake
Monster, Walter Dean Meyers
Much Ado About Nothing, William Shakespeare
The Once and Future King, E.B. White
Persuasion, Jane Austen
Two Trains Running, August Wilson
Picture Bride, Yoshiko Uchida
Speaker For the Dead, Orson Scott-Card

ASSIGNMENT

The culminating activity will be assigned in class once school begins. You are required to bring notes (guidelines below) with you to class on September 7th or 8th. These notes should be neat and legible and in your own words. They will serve as an aid to your memory in the speaking and writing activity to be assigned.

For the book you read:

• Record the title, author, and number of pages of the book you are writing about.
• Develop at least one solid argument for why your classmates should read this book. Base your argument on substantive, detailed analysis of what you find to be the book's most interesting, absorbing and compelling feature (not plot summary), such as
  ✓ Specific character portrayal, development, and "voice,"
  ✓ Specific structural technique or innovative form,
  ✓ Specific depiction of intense and gripping action events,
  ✓ Substantive analysis of the significance of the author's world view, message and theme.

The notes may be formatted either as paragraphs or a detailed outline. Your work should be of a sufficient length so that you are prepared to persuade your classmates of your argument, both orally and in written form.

Submit work typed or handwritten neatly in blue or black ink. Work is due September 7th or 8th.
Dear Parents,

Reading is not only a life-long skill that a person needs to succeed as a student and a worker, but also an essential skill in civic and personal activities. Perhaps even more importantly, reading opens the world to a person through various forms of literature. Reading gives students the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that may enhance their knowledge and development. Reading also can bring a lifetime of pleasure.

Research strongly suggests that reading, like most skills, improves with practice and decreases when we neglect it for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all students for success during school and after graduation, MCPS continues to expect all students to read during the summer.

In keeping with the belief that reading promotes students’ mental growth, improves their capacity to process information, and enhances their ability to understand themselves and the world around them, students at Montgomery Blair will read, and respond—in writing—to the texts they read. Successful completion of the summer reading assignment will benefit your child as he or she progresses through our curriculum. We owe it to our students to prepare them for an increasingly competitive and complex world.

This summer reading information can also be obtained at http://www.mbhhs.edu. Click on “Depts,” and then go to “English.”

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TITLES TAUGHT AT BLAIR
DO NOT CHOOSE FOR SUMMER READING!

The list below contains titles that may be assigned in 10th grade English. Students wishing to get a head start on regular-term reading may read titles from this list. However, these books may not be used for the summer reading assignment.

All Quiet on the Western Front
Black Boy
Bless Me, Ultima
The Catcher in the Rye
Dandelion Wine
Darkness At Noon
Ethan Frome
Fahrenheit 451
Frankenstein
Franney and Zooey
The Grapes of Wrath
The Joy Luck Club
Julius Caesar
Kindred
The Laramie Project
Lord of the Flies
The Martian Chronicles
Medea
Night
Nineteen Eighty-Four
The Odyssey
Pawn of Prophecy
The Piano Lesson
The Picture of Dorian Gray
The Princess Bride
Taming of the Shrew
Things Fall Apart