Dear Blair Junior,

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.
- Work is due on September 5th or 6th. The deadline is September 7th or 8th.

Choosing a Book:

- Please do not select previously read works.
- Select titles that are 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 the book you read. The English Department will check out books after school on June 13th and 14th in room 142.
- 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 all assignments.

READING ASSIGNMENT

Choose and read one of the following novels

If you are enrolled in honors English, you must select from the following choices, only:

- Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley
- The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston
- Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

(In addition to the above, for all other 11th Grade English classes, students may also choose from):

- The Color of Water* by James McBride
- Girl, Stolen* by April Henry
- Pop* by Gordon Korman

You must select a novel from this list. Titles with an asterisk (*) may be borrowed from the Blair English Department (and honors students must choose one of the books from the lower half of the list). You may also check the bookstores and libraries if you want to keep your book and take notes in it.

Note: In addition to giving your teacher a paper copy of your work, you may also have to submit your work to “Turnitin.com” before your teacher can give you credit for the assignment.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

The culminating writing activity will be completed in class. However, you are required to bring notes (guidelines below) with you to class on September 7th or 8th. You will turn these notes in to your teacher after the essay test.

Complete notes for the work of fiction you read.

Guidelines for Notes:

Choose 5 of the 8 "I" statements below. Write a one paragraph response for each of the 5 "I" statements that you choose.

- I wonder why …
- If I were in that situation, I would …
- I like the way the author …
- I was surprised …
- This story teaches …
- I like/dislike this idea because …
- I think this setting is important because …
- The character I most admire is … because …

On each page, record title and author of the work you are writing about. Submit work typed or handwritten neatly in blue or black ink.
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.mbhs.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 11th 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.

- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- The Awakening
- Cat’s Cradle
- Chronicle of a Death Foretold
- Civil Disobedience
- The Crucible
- Death of a Salesman
- A Doll House
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
- Fences
- The Glass Castle
- The Glass Menagerie
- The Great Gatsby
- A Hope in the Unseen
- A Lesson Before Dying
- Macbeth
- Native Son
- The Old Man and the Sea
- One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest
- Ordinary People
- The Road
- The Scarlet Letter
- The Tempest