

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."

TITLES TAUGHT AT BLAIR

DO NOT CHOOSE FOR SUMMER READING

The list below contains titles that may be assigned in **12th 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.

Catch-22

Finding Fish

Gulliver's Travels

Hamlet

In the Time of the Butterflies

The Metamorphosis

Oedipus

Othello

The Plague

Pygmalion

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Are Dead

Slaughterhouse Five

Snow Falling on Cedars

Song of Solomon

The Stranger

Their Eyes Were Watching God

The Things They Carried

This Boy's Life

Waiting for Godot

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.

Montgomery Blair High School



2019

Summer Reading Grade 12



Dear Blair Senior,

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 9th or 10th.

Choosing a Book:

- **Please do not select previously read works or middle school titles.**
- 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. Ideally, students should obtain their own copies of the summer reading texts. If you need assistance, however, please contact the English office in 141.
- Call if you have questions: (301) 649-2856.

Late Enrollment:

- Students who enroll after the semester begins will have 3 weeks to submit all assignments.

READING ASSIGNMENT

Choose and read One literary work from the following list:

HONORS STUDENTS must choose a novel from the titles below:

Cry, The Beloved Country

by Alan Paton

Hard Revolution

by George Pelecanos

Yellow Raft in Blue Water

by Michael Doris

The Namesake

by Jhumpa Lahiri



If you are not enrolled in honors English, you may choose any text from the list above, and you also have your choice of the following works:

Son of the Mob

by Gordon Korman

Romiette and Julio

by Sharon Draper

Go Ask Alice

by Beatrice Sparks

Kick

by Walter Dean Myers

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

You will need to bring the novel you read to class with you.

The culminating writing activity will be completed in class. However, you are required to bring notes (guidelines below) with you to class on September 5th or 6th. You will turn these notes in to your teacher after the essay test.

Guidelines for Notes for On-level:

On-level Students, complete the graphic organizer that you were given along with your summer assignment as your notes. An electronic copy of the graphic organizer can also be found online: mbhs.edu/departments/english/summerread.php.

Guidelines for Notes for Honors:

- Identify three (3) important qualities the main character displays.
- Choose three (3) important events for your character, one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end of the novel. Write an analysis of each of the three events, explaining how the character displays the three qualities you have identified for him or her and what the significance of the event is for the character.



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

Your notes will count in the HW for preparation category. The in-class writing assignment is a summative grade.

In addition to providing a paper or hard copy of your notes to your teacher, honors students should be prepared to submit electronic copies of their notes to "Turnitin.com."