

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."

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one." – George R.R. Martin

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." – J.K. Rowling

"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest (people) of the past centuries." – Descartes

"My alma mater was books, a good library.... I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity." – Malcolm X

# Montgomery Blair High School



## 2019

## Summer Reading Grade 10



## 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 9th or 10th.



### 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. Ideally, students should obtain their own copies of the summer reading texts. If you need assistance, however, please contact the English office in room 141 .
- 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

*Herland,* Charlotte Gilman

*The Iliad,* Homer

*In Darkness,* Nick Lake

*The Maze Runner,* James Dashner

*Monster,* Walter Dean Meyers

*Twelfth Night,* 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 5th or 6th. 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 5th or 6th.