

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."

## About the Course

This is primarily a course in the close study of the language and structure of prose, a course in critical reading and effective writing. The class is intended to be challenging to the most able and serious students. In developing their awareness of the power and versatility of language, students will study a variety of texts, learning to recognize language patterns and the author's purpose in using and arranging language for certain aims. As they develop their own writing, students should be able to describe their responses to discourse clearly and with authority, persuading their readers as appropriate through their own purposeful use of language. All students who take A.P. Language and Composition are expected to complete both semesters in the course and take the A.P. Examination in May.

Students who are successful in this class are not only well read and willing to read more, but also they are well versed in history, popular culture, and current events. We suggest that if you don't already watch or read the news that you start right away. You can read the newspaper online or in print, or you can watch a thirty minute evening news show.

# Montgomery Blair High School



## 2019

## Summer Reading AP 11th



## Dear AP Language Student,

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.
- Both assignments due on September 5th or 6th.  
The deadline is September 9th or 10th.

### Late Enrollment:

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

## ASSIGNMENT 1

Strunk and White

*Elements of Style*

<http://faculty.washington.edu/heagerty/Courses/b572/public/StrunkWhite.pdf>

While you should of course study this entire book, you are asked to focus specifically on the following two sections: “Elementary Rules of Usage” (rules 1-11) and “Principles of Composition” (rules 12-17). Get to know these elegant guidelines, as there will be a test on them on September 5th/6th. You should not only memorize them, you should be able to apply them.

## ASSIGNMENT 2

Stephen King

*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

[http://biblioteka.teatr-obraz.ru/files/file/English\\_cinema/Stephen\\_King\\_On\\_Writing.pdf](http://biblioteka.teatr-obraz.ru/files/file/English_cinema/Stephen_King_On_Writing.pdf)

Required reading: (including First, Second, and Third Foreward) beginning – page 162

Required Reading: “On Living: A Postscript”  
pages 253-270

Sections not mentioned are optional (focuses on fiction writing)

### Excerpt

Mary Karr presents her childhood in an almost unbroken panorama. Mine is a fogged-out landscape from which occasional memories appear like isolated trees . . . the kind that look as if they might like to grab and eat you.

What follows are some of those memories, plus assorted snapshots from the somewhat more coherent days of my adolescence and young manhood. This is not an autobiography. It is, rather, a kind of curriculum vitae—my attempt to show how one writer was formed. Not how one writer was made; I don’t believe writers can be made, either by circumstances or by self-will (although I did believe those things once). The equipment comes with the original package. Yet it is by no means unusual equipment; I believe large numbers of people have at least some talent as writers and storytellers, and that those talents can be strengthened and sharpened. If I didn’t believe that, writing a book like this would be a waste of time.

This is how it was for me, that’s all—a disjointed growth process in which ambition, desire, luck, and a little talent all played a part. Don’t bother trying to read between the lines, and don’t look for a through-line. There are no lines—only snapshots, most out of focus. (King 17-18)

### Narrative Task

As you read King’s narrative, notice how he follows his own advice; analyze his treatment of the moments in his life that he uses to illustrate his learning. Notice his style, his progression, his images. Then, choose a favorite childhood photograph and, mimicking King’s style, stop your own moment from running away. Choose your words carefully. Your narrative should amount to at least two pages, typed (Font: 12 point, Times New Roman) and double-spaced, heading on the left, and it should demonstrate an understanding of the conventions and style choices used by Stephen King. In other words, you will need to assess King’s style, then create a personal narrative that merges your style with his conventions; you will be graded on your elegance, but mostly on your understanding and use of King’s style.

This will be submitted to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com). Instructions will be given on the first day of school.