

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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Do not panic regarding your summer reading assignments. Do not wait until the last week before school to start your reading assignment. Your focus should be on engaging with and thinking about each book, analyzing the texts based on your own perceptions.

Do not consult outside sources such as SparkNotes or CliffsNotes. These "study aids" are not always a reliable source for information about plot or interpretation, and by consulting these sources, your ability to make critical analyses on your own will be limited.

Within the first week of classes in the fall, you will discuss, write about, and analyze these novels. There is little discussion or activities regarding the novels before the assessments, so "skimming" the books or reading them very quickly is severely limiting. Early assessments in the first week of class will include a quiz, an essay, and a presentation.

Note: In addition to giving your teacher a paper copy of your work, you will also have to submit your work to "Turnitin.com" before your teacher can give you credit.

# Montgomery Blair High School



## 2019

### Summer Reading AP 12th



## Dear AP Literature 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 the 1st marking period.
- The work is due on September 3rd or 4th.  
The deadline is September 5th or 6th.

### Choosing a Book:

- Please do not select previously read works.
- You should be able to find the required books at your local library, and some of them are available online. There is no need to purchase a book, but you may do so if you wish.
- 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

### Read two texts:

#### All Students Must Read:

*Johnny Got His Gun*

by Dalton Trumbo

The entire above text can be found online at:  
[HTTP://WWW.FALSEFLAG.INFO/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2013/08/JOHNNY-GOT-HIS-GUN-DALTON-TRUMBO.PDF](http://www.falseflag.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/JOHNNY-GOT-HIS-GUN-DALTON-TRUMBO.PDF)

#### And one of the following novels:

*The Confederacy of Dunces*

by John Kennedy Toole

The entire above text can be found online at:  
[HTTPS://0DUCKS.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM/2015/07/JOHN-KENNEDY-TOOLE-A-CONFEDERACY-OF-DUNCES.PDF](https://0ducks.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/JOHN-KENNEDY-TOOLE-A-CONFEDERACY-OF-DUNCES.PDF)

*The House of the Spirits*

by Isabel Allende

*Invisible Man*

by Ralph Ellison

The entire above text can be found online at:  
[https://bpi.edu/ourpages/auto/2010/5/11/36901472/Ralph%20Ellison%20-%20Invisible%20Man%20v3\\_0.pdf](https://bpi.edu/ourpages/auto/2010/5/11/36901472/Ralph%20Ellison%20-%20Invisible%20Man%20v3_0.pdf)

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT

a. Required: For each novel, students must complete a reading log. The reading log should be typewritten, single space. The reading log is due the 1st day of class.

- Reading Log Requirements: Copy ten key passages (of at least five lines). The passages need to be from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. For each passage, create a one-paragraph response analyzing any of the following elements: character development, setting, point of view, writing style (diction, figurative language, imagery, syntax, tone, and mood), theme, or symbol.
- Cite chapter (if given) and page number for each passage.

b. Recommended: On a separate sheet of paper, compose a set of one-sentence summaries to remind you of what is in each chapter, and important quotes, questions that you want to discuss in class. Obtain and read a copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Forster as a guide to make your reading of literature more rewarding and fun.

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