

## Dear Blair Sophomore,

Since good readers make good writers and good readers make good thinkers, each student entering Montgomery Blair High School in August is required to complete reading and writing assignments in preparation for the fall semester.



### The Particulars:

- Work counts towards 1st marking period
- Work is due September 3rd or 4th. The deadline is September 8th or 9th.

### 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. There is no need to purchase a book, but you may do so if you wish. In any case, please have your book with you when you return to school.
- 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 assignments.

## READING ASSIGNMENT

### Choose and read (for Grade 10):

#### 1. One Biography or Autobiography

Select a book about someone who lives/ lived in the US in the years since 1945. The subject should be someone who has demonstrated leadership or served as a positive role model.

[Although political contributions may be the most obvious, leaders in other fields (science, literature, business) often contribute to the public interest in ways that extend beyond narrow personal interest and, therefore, would be appropriate subjects for this assignment.]

#### 1. One Work of Fiction

Your second book choice should be a novel or drama which 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.

*In the Time of the Butterflies*, Alvarez  
*The Blacker the Berry*, Thurman  
*The Cat's Eye*, Atwood  
*East of Eden*, Steinbeck  
*Harvey*, Chase  
*Herland*, Gilman  
*The Iliad*, Homer  
*Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare  
*The Once and Future King*, White  
*Persuasion*, Austen  
*Two Trains Running*, Wilson  
*Picture Bride*, Uchida  
*Speaker For the Dead*, Scott-Card



## 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 8th or 9th. These notes should be brief, but neat and legible and in your own words. They will serve as an aid to your memory and will be turned in to your teachers after the writing activity.

*For each of the books you read:*

- Identify the main character and 5 adjectives that best describe him/her.
- Identify 5 other characters and their relationship and/or interaction with the main character.
- Identify the main problem (conflict) the main character faces. Is the problem resolved? How or why not?
- Identify where and when the story takes place.
- List 5 events that take place, taking care to include the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- Record the title, author, and number of pages of the book you are writing about.

*Submit work typed or handwritten neatly in blue or black ink. Work is due September 8th or 9th.*

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 **10th 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.

*All Quiet on the Western Front*

*Black Boy*

*Bless Me, Ultima*

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*

*Catcher in the Rye*

*Coming of Age in Mississippi*

*Dandelion Wine*

*Darkness At Noon*

*Ethan Frome*

*Fahrenheit 451*

*Frankenstein*

*Franny and Zooey*

*The Grapes of Wrath*

*The Joy Luck Club*

*Julius Caesar*

*Lord of the Flies*

*The Martian Chronicles*

*Medea*

*Night*

*Nineteen Eighty-Four*

*The Odyssey*

*The Piano Lesson*

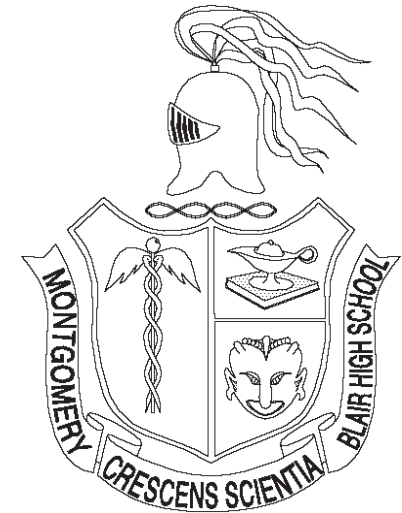
*The Picture of Dorian Gray*

*Taming of the Shrew*

*Things Fall Apart*



# Montgomery Blair High School



## Grade 10 Summer Reading

2009

