



Grade 9 Summer Reading 2011

All Blake students entering Grade 9 in Fall 2011 are expected to have read **TWO** books which are:

- **NOT** on the ninth grade reading list (below)
- at least 150 pages
- appropriate for classroom discussion
- approved by a parent or guardian
- suitable to student's individual reading level

For this assignment, students **MAY NOT** read a title which is on Montgomery County's list of anchor texts for Grade 9. Therefore, **the following titles MAY NOT be used for the summer reading assignment:**

A Farewell to Arms
A Raisin in the Sun
A Separate Peace
Antigone
Children of the River
Ender's Game
Flowers for Algernon
Having Our Say
House on Mango Street

Inherit the Wind
Of Mice and Men
Our Town
The Princess Bride
Romeo and Juliet
Shabanu
Spoon River Anthology
The Chosen
To Kill a Mockingbird

Notes

Students are required to complete **the attached graphic organizer** for **EACH** of the TWO books read. The graphic organizer requires:

1. your complete name
2. author's complete name
3. underlined title of book
4. your parent's legible signature, verifying that you completed the book, and a daytime phone number where that parent may be reached
5. TWO short quotations (with page numbers) you consider meaningful, interesting, or significant to the book
6. A 3-5 sentence explanation of the importance of EACH quotation to the book
7. On the back of the graphic organizer: In 5-8 carefully constructed, detailed sentences, explain a **THEME¹, FOCUS, or CENTRAL IDEA** of the book. Give two specific details or examples from the book to support your claim.

Note: During the first week of school, you will write an essay in class about your summer reading. **You may use these note cards to assist you in writing the essay, so the more detailed and thorough, the more useful they will be.**

¹ A theme is a statement or judgment about a topic in a book. It is never one word like "love" or "power," but is a sentence about one of those topics, like "True love is worth fighting for" or "Absolute power will corrupt even the noblest person."

MCPS Summer Reading Rationale

Since 1998, Montgomery County Public Schools has required summer reading in middle and high schools and encouraged summer reading in elementary schools.

Reading is a life-long skill that is necessary for everyone who wishes to be successful as a student, a worker, and a citizen. Perhaps even more importantly, reading opens the world through periodicals, references, essays, and literature. Through reading, individuals have the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that they may never actually encounter in life. Reading can also bring a lifetime of pleasure and mental acuity.

Research strongly suggests that reading, like most skills, improves when practiced and decreases when neglected. Therefore, consistent with a commitment to prepare all students for success during school and after graduation, MCPS expects all students to read during the summer.

Note to Parents and Students:

Students should have parental approval and guidance in selecting books. The National Endowment for the Humanities has collected reading lists from across the nation and compiled a list of what NEH refers to as “summertime favorites” which highlight classic literature for young people. This list can be found at:

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites.html>

The American Library Association publishes recommended reading lists, including many lists of award winners that appeal to students. These lists can be found at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.cfm#booklists>

If you need additional assistance in choosing titles, please contact your local public librarian or Blake’s English Resource Teacher, Media Specialist, Resource Teacher for Special Education, or ESOL teacher.

The MCPS Summer Reading List page can be found at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/readinglists/>

For more information, contact:

Ms. Christine Di Monte, English Resource Teacher
301 879-1351 Christine_H_DiMonte@mcpsmd.org





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Your Name	Author of book
Full Title of Book (underlined)	
Parent Signature & daytime phone number	

Quotation 1	What is the importance of this quotation to the book? (3-5 sentences)
Quotation 2	What is the importance of this quotation to the book? (3-5 sentences)



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Your Name	Author of book
Full Title of Book (underlined)	
Parent Signature & daytime phone number	

Quotation 1	What is the importance of this quotation to the book? (3-5 sentences)
Quotation 2	What is the importance of this quotation to the book? (3-5 sentences)

