

Dear Student,

Since good readers make good writers and good writers make good thinkers, each student entering Takoma Park Middle School in August is encouraged to complete reading and writing assignments in preparation for the fall semester.

The Particulars

- Choose a book and articles which will help you with **English, social studies, or science** classes.
- Select a particular format in which to present the reading with your peers. Your peers and teachers may request that you share your book on *Wake Up, Takoma!*
- All written drafts for the specific subjects participating in summer reading are due by **September 4, 2009**.
- These assignments **may help** students meet first quarter requirements.

Choosing a Book

- Please do not select previously read works or elementary school titles.
- Select titles that are **on** or **above** your grade level.
- Ask librarians, teachers, or parents for suggestions.
- Consult the web page for what Takoma Park students are reading:
www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/takomapark.ms/
or
tpmsweb.com

Are you having difficulty getting a book? Do you have any other questions? Please contact our school librarian, Kathryn_A_Giesey@mcpsmd.org, to get assistance in locating and checking out books from our school library over the summer. Refer other questions to the English Resource Teacher Deborah_D_Pleasant@mcpsmd.org.

Reading Assignments:

Choose and read **one** item from each of the following categories: (*3 readings in total*)

1. One Novel of Your Choice:

Select a book of your choice to read and analyze. You may refer to the public library, the ALA website (ALA.org), the Black-eyed Susan book list, or the list of TPMS favorite books for ideas.

or

Read as many books of your choice to help you meet the state requirement of a minimum of 25 books read per year.

2. One Newspaper Article from June, July or August, 2009:

Select an article from the newspaper or an online source about a specific country which focuses on the following question:

“How are struggles for power reflected in countries today?”

3. Articles for Science Fair Project:

Explore topics for next year's science fair project or access the list online from the school's website posted under the **Calendar and News** link or **English** page and begin reading and compiling material to support your topic.

Writing Assignments:

Submit your **notes or drafts** of your written work to the teacher indicated by **September 4, 2009**.

1. Mini-Book Report (English)

Complete a mini-book report form for outside reading which you may print on-line or pick up from your English teacher before school ends. If you need more forms and cannot download them, come by the school and pick up forms from the Main Office or Guidance Office.

2. Explanatory Paragraph (World Studies)

Write a paragraph summarizing the article in relation to the country you chose and its struggle for power.

- The country, the conflict, and the parties involved are stated in the topic sentence.
- There are 5-7 supporting sentences which explain how the struggle for power exists today and how it is resolved.
- There is a concluding sentence.
- There is a copy of the original article along with your summary paragraph.

3. Annotated Bibliography (Science)

Compile a folder of readings and make an annotated bibliography of materials read on your chosen topic. If you need assistance with completing an annotated bibliography, go to www.noodletools.com.

Dear Parents,

It seems that everyone has ideas about how best to teach our children. But amid the debate, one sound practice is evident: the practice of reading. Over and over, educational researchers have proven the equation: **good readers = good writers = good thinkers**. No one disputes the research. Reading promotes mental growth in our students, the capacity to process information and the ability to understand themselves and the world around them. We teachers and parents in the Blair Cluster can help to shape this potential growth in a positive way by providing the opportunity for each child to select, read, and respond to various types of writing. Successful completion of these assignments will benefit your child as he or she progresses through our curriculum. We owe it to our students to prepare them for an increasingly complex and competitive world.

**Sincerely,
Grade 7 Teachers**

Titles Taught at Takoma Park Middle School

Grade 7

(Do **NOT** choose for summer reading)

Adam of the Road
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Call of the Wild
Catherine, Called Birdy
The Cay
The Diary of Anne Frank
A Connecticut Yankee ...
The Endless Steppe
Escape from Warsaw
Farewell to Manzanar
Friedrich
Goodnight, Mr. Tom
The Great Gilly Hopkins
Island of the Blue Dolphins
The Member of the Wedding
A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Midwife's Apprentice
My Dog Skip
North to Freedom
The Outsiders
The Pigman
The Secret Garden
Welcome Home Jellybean
Where the Lilies Bloom
Zlata's Diary

Students who want to get ahead on reading books they might be assigned may read titles from this list. However, these titles may not be used for the summer reading assignment. (There is no guarantee that seventh grade teachers will teach every title listed.)

Takoma Park Middle School



**Summer Reading
Program 2009**

Grade 7