

## Dear Blair Senior,

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 1st or 2nd.

The deadline is September 8th or 9th.

### Choosing a Book:

- **Please do not select previously read works or middle school titles.**
- Select titles that are 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 the book you read. The English Department will check out books **following the 2nd exam on June 10, 14, and 15 in room 137.**
- 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 all assignments.

## READING ASSIGNMENT

### Choose and read:

#### 1. One of the following

#### NOVELS:

*The House of the Spirits\**  
by Isabel Allende

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings\**  
by Maya Angelou

*The Farming of Bones\**  
Edwidge Danticat

*Yellow Raft in Blue Water\**  
by Michael Doris

*Nineteen Minutes*  
by Jodi Piccolt

*The Poisonwood Bible*  
by Barbara Kingsolver

*Paper Daughter*  
by Jeanette Ingold

*Behemoth*  
by Scott Westerfeld

*SkateFate*  
by Julian Felipe Herrera

*Cryer's Cross*  
by Lisa McMann

*Death With Interruptions*  
by Jose' Saramago



You **must** select a novel from this list. Titles with an asterisk (\*) may be borrowed from the Blair English Department. You may also check the bookstores and libraries if you want to read the other titles.

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

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT

**You will need to bring the novel you read to class with you.**

The culminating writing activity will be completed in class. However, you are required to bring notes (guidelines below) with you to class on September 1st or 2nd. You will turn these notes in to your teacher after the essay test.

### Guidelines for Notes:

### COMPLETE FOR THE NOVEL YOU READ.

- Identify three (3) important qualities the main character displays.
- Choose three (3) important events for your character, one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end of the novel. Write an analysis of each of the three events, explaining how the character displays the three qualities you have identified for him or her and what the significance of the event is for the character.



*On each page of notes, record the title and author of the work you are writing about. Submit work typed or handwritten neatly in blue or black ink.*

*Your notes will count in the HW for preparation category. The in-class writing assignment is a summative grade.*

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 **12th 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.

*Catch-22*

*Finding Fish*

*Gulliver's Travels*

*Hamlet*

*The Handmaid's Tale*

*In the Time of the Butterflies*

*The Metamorphosis*

*The Namesake*

*Oedipus*

*Othello*

*The Plague*

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*

*Are Dead*

*Slaughterhouse Five*

*Snow Falling on Cedars*

*Song of Solomon*

*The Things They Carried*

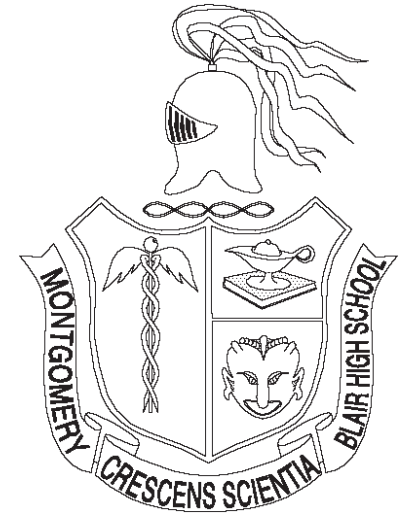
*This Boy's Life*

*Waiting for Godot*

*Wuthering Heights*

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

# Montgomery Blair High School



## 2011

## Summer Reading Grade 12