

Dear Blair Freshman,

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. Furthermore, these writing assignments will earn credit in both your English and social studies courses.

The Particulars:

- Work counts towards 1st marking period
- Work is due September 1st or 2nd.

The deadline is September 8th or 9th.

Choosing What To Do:

- Please do not select previously read works or middle school titles.
- Select titles that are on or above your reading level.
- 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.
- Ask librarians, teachers, or parents for additional suggestions.

Call if you have questions: (301) 649-2856.

Late Enrollment:

- Students who enroll after the semester begins will have 3 weeks to submit the assignments.

READING ASSIGNMENT

You may choose to read one book that interests you. It is important to choose something appropriate for your reading ability. Below, we have suggested some titles that students your age might enjoy. If nothing on this list interests you, visit your local library or bookstore for other titles and choices.

[1=11th & 12th grade level; 2=9th & 10th; 3=5th - 8th]

The Killer Angels [2] • Michael Shaara. A sweeping, absorbing recreation of the Battle of Gettysburg, told from multiple viewpoints—Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, etc.
Chinese Cinderella [2] • Adeline Yen Mah. A Chinese girl struggles to maintain her self-worth as she grows up unwanted and unloved.

Going Solo [2] • Roald Dahl. An autobiography of the author's remarkable exploits in Africa before World War II and his adventures as a pilot in the Royal Air Force fighting the Nazis

Jubilee [1] • Margaret Walker. Here is the classic and true story of Vyry, the child of a white plantation owner and his black mistress; a heroine to rival Scarlet O'Hara.

I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This [3] • Jacqueline Woodson. Marie, an upper-class African American, befriends Lena, a poor, white girl, and learns her secret. Now, Marie must decide if she should tell.

Tangerine [2] • Edward Bloor. When Paul's school gets sucked up in a sinkhole, he chooses to attend school across the tracks in Tangerine. There, he becomes part of the soccer team and fits in with the town's Latino community.

Into Thin Air [2] • Jon Krakauer. The incredible account of a devastating climb of Mount Everest, involving both death and triumph

Always Running [2] • Luis Rodriguez. Rodriguez describes his life as a gang member in East Los Angeles. (Parents: while this book is well written, it contains sexual content, violence, and profane language.)

Soldier's Heart [3] • Gary Paulson. Charlie Goddard finds himself face to face with hunger, disease, and death after he enlists in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key [3] • Jack Gantos. A humorous story of a boy with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) who wants to control himself but can't.

ASSIGNMENT

The culminating activity will be completed in class. However, you are required to bring notes (guidelines below) with you to class on September 1st or 2nd. These notes should be brief, but neat and legible. They will serve as an aid to your memory and will be turned in to your teachers after the in-class activity.

For the book you read:

- Identify the *main character* and 5 adjectives that best describe him or her.
- Identify *where and when* the story takes place.
- Identify 3 *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?
- Taking care to include the beginning, middle, and end of the book, make a *Timeline* of 10 events that take place.
- Record the *title, author, and number of pages* of the book you are writing about.

Submit work typed or hand-written neatly in blue or black ink.

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.



This summer reading information can also be obtained at <http://www.mbhs.edu>. Click on "Depts," and then go to "English."

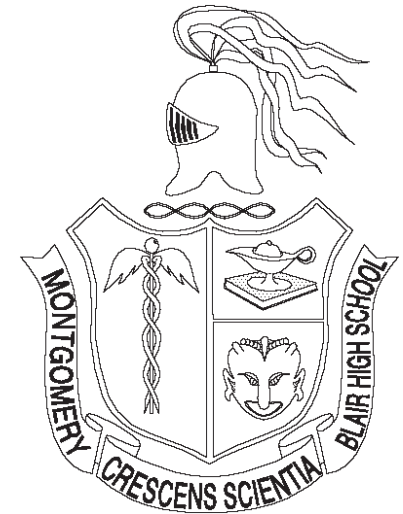
TITLES TAUGHT AT BLAIR DO NOT CHOOSE FOR SUMMER READING

The list below contains titles that may be assigned in 9th 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.

Antigone
Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
The Chosen
Cry, the Beloved Country
Cyrano de Bergerac
Dances With Wolves
Ender's Game
Flowers For Algernon
Great Expectations
The House on Mango Street
Incidents in the Life of A Slavegirl
Inherit the Wind
The Jungle
Les Miserables
The Martian Chronicles
The Miracle Worker
Of Mice and Men
Our Town
A Raisin in the Sun
Romeo and Juliet
A Separate Peace
Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind
Story of A Shipwrecked Sailor
A Tale of Two Cities
To Kill A Mockingbird



Montgomery Blair High School



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Summer Reading Grade 9

