

Summer Reading Information



All students are required to read one book and complete one assignment before they start school.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~Dr. Seuss

The English Department of the Mount Carmel Area School District believes in the importance of summer reading to enrich the lives of students. Hopefully, the summer reading experience will be enjoyable. We have created reading lists to offer you a wide variety of reading material from which to choose. You may choose a book from the list or decide on one of your own with your current teacher's approval. The list contains books from many genres and reading levels. You should be able to find at least one that sparks your interest and piques your imagination.

**See the school's website for the complete list.*

Books may be read with friends or family members to enhance your experience and understanding of the text. All students entering grades 7 through 12 are required to read one book over the summer and complete the summer reading assignment. While each of you is only required to read one book, we offer this extensive list to encourage you to read more than the minimum.

MCA English Department Policies for Summer Reading:

1. Choose one novel from the Suggested Reading List or a book of your own with your teacher's approval. Make sure to read novels that are not too easy and not too difficult. (If you are entering Honors English 9 you will read *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry.)
2. Complete the Summer Reading Form and have your teacher sign it.
3. When you finish reading, complete the Summer Reading Assignment attached to the packet.
4. Complete ONE Activity from the suggested list.
5. Bring your Summer Reading Assignment and Activity on the first day of school.
6. Students in all grade levels will present their Activity in class during the first week of school.
7. This summer reading project will count as the first grade in your English class. If it is not finished, you will lose points every week it is past due. At the end of the first marking period, you will be given a zero if you do not complete the project.

Summer Reading Assignment Questions: (answer on a separate paper)

Title:

Author:

Main Characters:

1. What are the important events that take place in the book? (List in chronological order)
 2. What are the most important ideas that the author wants you to consider?
 3. Copy one or two short quotations or passages that you think are particularly important.
-

Summer Reading Activity Choices:

Be prepared to present your activity on the first day of class.

Activity 1: Sequence of Action

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of sequence of action
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Create a timeline of events that take place in the novel
- Target five important events
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author conveyed the series of events.
 - Try to include literary elements such as flashback and climax.
-

Activity 2: Setting

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of setting
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Identify the setting of the novel
- Draw or find pictures to describe both the time and place represented in the novel. Use five adjectives to describe the setting.
- If the setting is an actual place, include a map to show its relationship to other places in the world/country.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author developed the setting.

Think about how the author develops the setting to convey feelings and set the mood.

Activity 3: Characterization

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of character development
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Draw an outline of one main character in the novel
- Inside the outline, write/place symbols/pictures to describe the internal elements of his/her character. Think about character traits such as honesty or bravery.
- Outside the outline, write/place symbols/pictures to describe the external elements of his/her character. Think about physical characteristics like the way the character looks or dresses. Include five different characteristics or traits.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author develops the characters.
 - Think about how the characters interact with each other and the types of relationships they develop.
-

Activity 4: Figurative Language

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of the use of figurative language
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- As you read, identify elements of figurative language
- Look for five examples of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, hyperbole, idiom, allegory, and irony.
- Find or draw a picture to represent one of your examples.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author uses figurative language to develop his/her style.
-

Activity 5: Symbols

Objectives:

- Analyze literature/demonstrate understanding through the use of symbols
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- As you read, identify examples of symbols.
- Identify five examples of symbolic images.
- Bring an object to represent one of your examples.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author's use of symbolism helps to develop his/her style.
-

Activity 6: Theme

Objectives:

- Analyze literature/demonstrate understanding of theme
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- As you read, identify some quotations from the text that help to identify the theme.
- Create a poster (8½ x 11 in) with one quote from the novel that demonstrates its general theme.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining the theme of the novel and the quotation(s) you have selected.
-

Students going into Honors classes are assigned specific books to read:

Entering Honors English 9: *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

Entering Honors English 10: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Entering Honors English 11: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Entering Honors English 12: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

Entering AP English: Summer Reading Packets will be distributed.



Book Choice: _____

Author: _____

Student's Name: _____

I have selected to read the above novel as my summer reading assignment. I have received a packet of information and I fully understand the activity I must present at the start of the school year.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Teacher's Signature: _____

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." ~Walt Disney



Have a great summer!