

## Great Mills High School Standard & College Merit Summer Reading Assignments

Summer 2009 10<sup>th</sup> grade

### Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The purpose of the county-wide summer reading assignment is to broaden students' literary backgrounds, increase reading skills, and enrich vocabularies, and foster the love of reading. Attached to this letter are the following: the summer assignment corresponding to the student's 2009-10 grade level, a high-interest, a grade-appropriate reading list, and a sample reading log. Parents and students should investigate and discuss the book options together in order to make appropriate choices; detailed descriptions of high-interest books and this summer assignment can be found on the school website (<http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments>) or at the county website (<http://www.smcps.org>). Parents who are interested in knowing more about the content or theme of any of these books can also find additional information at <http://www.amazon.com> or <http://www.ala.org>.

All students enrolled in a College Merit (CM) or Standard (S) English class for the 2009-10 school year may choose a Level 1, 2, or 3 assignment that best suits their interests and abilities. *Honors (H) or Advanced Placement (AP) summer assignments are separate from this assignment and will be assigned a grade.* Please refer to GMHS' website for additional information about the Honors and AP assignments at <http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments>.

In August, students will engage in follow-up activities (i.e. small group discussions and/or oral presentations) connected to the summer reading assignments, and incentives will be awarded for these activities. If you have any questions about the summer reading assignments, feel free to contact one of the school representatives listed below. Happy reading!!

Sincerely,

Tracey Heibel,  
Great Mills High School Principal  
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Marian Steinbach  
Academic Dean  
[mrsteinbach@smcps.org](mailto:mrsteinbach@smcps.org)

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## Great Mills High School

**Level 1:** Read **ONE** books from the self-selected reading list for your grade. Complete a \* summer reading journal template for each book.

**Level 2:** Read **ONE** of the school-approved books and **ONE** book from the self selection reading list for your grade. Complete a \* summer reading journal template for each book.

**Level 3:** Read **ONE** of the school-approved books and **TWO** books from the self selection reading list for your grade. Complete a \* summer reading journal template for each book.

	<b>Summer Assignment</b>	<b>School-approved Books</b>
<b>Grade 9</b>	<p><b>All S &amp; CM students:</b> Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment &amp; complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p><b>Honors:</b> See assignment @ (<a href="http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments">http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments</a>) for the following books:  <i>Lord of the Flies</i>, William Golding  <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>, Charles Dickens</p>	<p><b>Standard &amp; College Merit Novel Titles:</b></p> <p><i>The Chocolate War</i>, Robert Cormier  <i>The Lord of the Flies</i>, William Golding  <i>A Parrot in the Oven</i>, Victor Martinez  <i>The Bean Trees</i>, Barbara Kingsolver  <i>River, Cross my Heart</i>, Breena Clark  <i>Make Lemonade</i>, Virginia Euwer Wolff</p>
<b>Grade 10</b>	<p><b>All S &amp; CM students</b> Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment &amp; complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p><b>Honors:</b> See assignment @ (<a href="http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments">http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments</a>) for the following books:  <i>Siddhartha</i>, Herman Hesse  <i>Julius Caesar</i>, William Shakespeare</p>	<p><b>Standard &amp; College Merit Novel Titles:</b></p> <p><i>Don Quixote</i>, Miguel Cervantes  <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>, Amy Tan  <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, Erich Maria Remarque  <i>Ordinary People</i>, Judith Guest  <i>Shizuko's Daughter</i>, Kyoto Mora  <i>Grass Dancer</i>, Susan Powers</p>
<b>Grade 11</b>	<p><b>All S &amp; CM students</b> Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment &amp; complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p><b>AP:</b> See assignment @ (<a href="http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments">http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments</a>) for the following books:  <i>Writing Down the Bones</i>, Natalie Goldberg  <i>One Writer's Beginnings</i>, Eudora Welty  <i>On Writing</i>, Stephen King  <i>The Writing Life</i>, Annie Dillard</p>	<p><b>Standard &amp; College Merit Novel Titles:</b></p> <p><i>The Jungle</i>, Upton Sinclair  <i>Cold Mountain</i>, Charles Frazier  <i>All the Pretty Horses</i>, Cormack McCarthy  <i>Fallen Angels</i>, Walter Dean Myers  <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, Scott Fitzgerald  <i>Moby Dick</i>, Herman Melville</p>
<b>Grade 12</b>	<p><b>All S &amp; CM students</b> Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment &amp; complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p><b>AP:</b> See assignment @ (<a href="http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments">http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments</a>) for the following books:  <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, Jane Austin *(choose <u>one</u> of these titles)  <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>, Oscar Wilde *(choose <u>one</u> of these titles)  <i>Brave New World</i>, Aldous Huxley *(choose <u>one</u> of these titles)  <i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>, Ken Kesey *(choose <u>one</u> of these titles)  <i>The Bluest Eye</i>, Toni Morrison *(choose <u>one</u> of these titles)  <i>Crime &amp; Punishment</i>, Fyodor Dostoevsky *(<b>required selection</b>)  <i>How to Read Lit. Like a Professor</i>, Thomas C. Foster *(<b>required selection</b>)</p>	<p><b>Standard &amp; College Merit Novel Titles:</b></p> <p><i>Alias Grace</i>, Margaret Atwood  <i>Chocolat</i>, Joanne Harris  <i>Girl with the Pearl Earring</i>, Tracey Chevalier  <i>Grendel</i>, John Gardner  <i>Heart of Darkness</i>, Joseph Conrad  <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, Jane Austen</p>
	* <b>Summer Reading Journal Template for S &amp; CM Students:</b>	record the date, minutes read, <u>and</u> obtain a parent signature for each entry

## \*Summer Reading Journal Template\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For each book you read, you must complete a minimum of:

5 (five) "Reader's Log" entries

3 (three) "Reader's Response" entries \*(use template below)

### Reader's Log:

Date	Pages read	Parent Signature

### Reader's Response Entries:

Page (s)	Passage/excerpt from the book	Significance of the passage/Your reaction to the passage

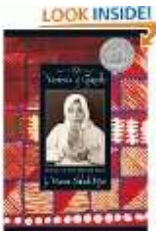
# High-interest Books for Grade 10 Standard & College Merit English Students

\*these are suggested titles only; students are encouraged to read *any* work of literature of their choice over the summer and complete the Level 1, 2, or 3 assignment.

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**Level 2:** Read **ONE** of the school-approved books and **ONE** book from the self selection reading list for your grade. Complete a \* Summer Reading Journal Template for each book.  
**Level 3:** Read **ONE** of the school-approved books and **TWO** books from the self selection reading list for your grade. Complete a Summer Reading Journal Template for each book.

*19 Varieties of Gazelle* by Naomi Shihab Nye  
*A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry  
*A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah  
*A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini  
*Buried Onions* by Gary Soto  
*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Mah  
*City of Beasts* by Isabel Allende  
*Cuba 15* by Nancy Osa  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card  
*Four Perfect Pebbles* by Lila Perl and Marian Blumenthal Lazan  
*Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow  
*In the Walled Gardens* by Anahita Firouz  
*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer  
*Messenger* by Lois Lowrey  
*Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi  
*Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan  
*Shiva's Fire* by Suzanne Fisher Staples  
*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See  
*The Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak  
*The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand  
*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls  
*The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom  
*Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe  
*When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka

## High-interest Books for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Standard & College Merit English Students



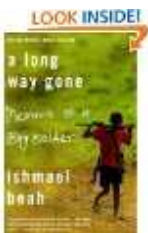
### *19 Varieties of Gazelle* by Naomi Shihab Nye

Another world, another culture –this collection of poems personalize the conflicts and people, deepening understanding of the impact of September 11th.



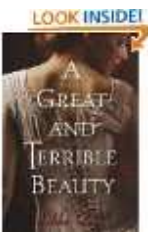
### *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry

The five main characters of *A Fine Balance*, converging in a crowded apartment in a nameless Indian city, face a variety of horrors—a lingering, repressive caste system, the corrupt and callous government of Indira Gandhi's Emergency, the heartlessness of unchecked capitalism, and an environment that is both unhealthy and demoralizing.



### *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah

This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah's harrowing journey transforms him overnight from a child enthralled by American hip-hop music and dance to an internal refugee bereft of family, wandering from village to village in a country grown deeply divided by the indiscriminate atrocities of unruly, sociopathic rebel and army forces. Beah then finds himself in the army—in a drug-filled life of casual mass slaughter that lasts until he is 15, when he's brought to a rehabilitation center sponsored by UNICEF and partnering NGOs. The process marks out Beah as a gifted spokesman for the center's work after his "repatriation" to civilian life in the capital, where he lives with his family and a distant uncle. When the war finally engulfs the capital, it sends 17-year-old Beah fleeing again, this time to the U.S., where he now lives.



### *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England. After many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.



*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years -- from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding -- that puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives -- the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness -- are inextricable from the history playing out around them.



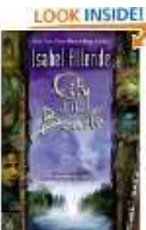
*Buried Onions* by Gary Soto

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.



*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Mah

Wu Mei, also called Adeline, is the Fifth Younger Sister of her family, and the one who bears the blame for all their bad fortune. In her inspirational tale of survival in 1940's China, she triumphs against all odds.



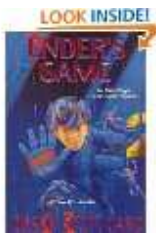
*City of Beasts* by Isabel Allende

Alexander Cold is about to join his fearless grandmother on the trip of a lifetime. An *International Geographic* expedition is headed to the dangerous, remote wilds of South America on a mission to document the legendary Yeti of the Amazon known as the Beast. But there are many secrets hidden in the unexplored wilderness, as Alex and his friend Nadia soon discover. Drawing on the strength of their spirit guides, both young people are led on a thrilling and unforgettable journey to the ultimate discovery.



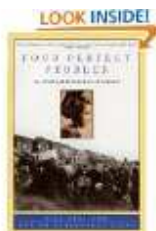
*Cuba 15* by Nancy Osa

a 10th grader in suburban Chicago, spends the better part of a year preparing for her quincea-ero, the celebration of her womanhood, that her Cuban grandmother longs for her to experience. While her attention to the plans and her understanding of what the event means wax and wane in her consciousness, she turns her family's personal foibles and social extravagances into fodder for her speech team's Original Comedy competition. She wittily points up the bizarreness of her father's sartorial choices, her little brother's peskiness, her mother's quest to open her own restaurant, and the family's devotion to dominoes.



*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

Ender Wiggen is a very bright young boy with a powerful skill. One of a group of children bred to be military geniuses and save Earth from an inevitable attack by aliens, known here as “buggers,” Ender becomes unbeatable in war games and seems poised to lead Earth to triumph over the aliens.



*Four Perfect Pebbles* by Lila Perl and Marian Blumenthal Lazan

Amid a growing number of memoirs about the Holocaust, this book warrants attention both for the uncommon experiences it records and for the fullness of that record. Marion Blumenthal was not quite five years old in 1939 when her family fled Germany for Holland, ending up in the relative safety of Westerbork, then a refugee camp run by the Dutch government. They had visas for the U.S. and tickets for an ocean crossing, but during a fatal three-month postponement of their sailing, the Germans invaded Holland. By 1944 the Blumenthals arranged to be part of a group bound for Palestine in exchange for the release of German POWs; the family was instead sent to Bergen Belsen, where they remained, together, in the so-called Family Camp.



*Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow

The novel examines the midlife crisis of Eugene Henderson, an unhappy millionaire. The story concerns Henderson's search for meaning. A larger-than-life 55-year-old who has accumulated money, position, and a large family, he nonetheless feels unfulfilled. He makes a spiritual journey to Africa, where he draws emotional sustenance from experiences with African tribes. Deciding that his true destiny is as a healer, Henderson returns home, planning to enter medical school.



*In the Walled Gardens* by Anahita Firouz

Firouz's debut novel is set in Iran in 1977, just a couple of years prior to the revolution in 1979. Told from two points of view--that of Mahastee, a wealthy young woman, and Reza, the son of an overseer--the story revolves around the world of privilege and the revolutionary underground. Mahastee and Reza knew each other as children, when Reza's father worked for Mahastee's family, but their lives have taken different courses. Mahastee is married to a wealthy businessman, whose personal and professional practices disgust her. Reza is involved in the leftist movement that protests the government's treatment of the majority of its citizens. Both Mahastee and Reza are seeking missing men: the son of one of Mahastee's colleagues and an associate of Reza's.



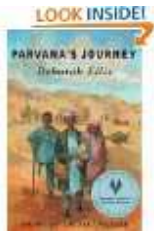
*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggles to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.



*Messenger* by Lois Lowrey

Matty, who has lived in Village with the blind Seer since running away from an abusive childhood, is looking forward to receiving his true name, which he hopes will be Messenger. But he is deeply unsettled by what is going on. He has discovered his own power to heal others and learned of disturbing changes within his community. Under the gentle guidance of Leader, who arrived in Village on a red sled as a young boy and who has the power of Seeing Beyond, the citizens have always welcomed newcomers, especially those who are disabled. But a sinister force is at work, which has prompted them to close admission to outsiders. Also, it seems that Matty's beloved Mentor has been trading away parts of his inner self in order to become more attractive to Stocktender's widow. When the date for the close of the border is decided, Matty must make one more trip through the increasingly sinister Forest to bring back Seer's daughter, the gifted weaver Kira. On the return journey, Matty must decide if he should use his healing but self-destructive power to reverse the inexorable decline of Forest, Village, and its people.



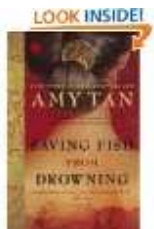
*Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis

After her father's death, thirteen-year-old Parvana, disguised as a boy, wanders alone through war-torn Afghanistan looking for her mother and siblings who had disappeared in the tumult of the Taliban takeover of Mazer-e-Sharif. Early in her journey, Parvana comes across a baby, the only survivor in a bombed village. She takes him along, as both a burden and a comfort along her horrifyingly realistic journey.



*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

*Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran: of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life and of the enormous toll repressive regimes exact on the individual spirit.



*Saving Fish from Drowning* by Amy Tan

When Bibi Chen, the leader of a group of twelve American tourists, mysteriously dies while on an art expedition in the Himalayan foothills of China, the remainder of the group discovers that the Burma Road is filled with danger and uncertainty.



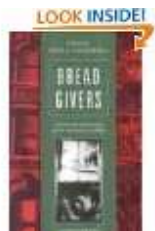
*Shiva's Fire* by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Parvati, a young Hindu girl from India who is known for the extraordinary events that occur when she dances, leaves her family to train in classical Indian dance with a great master, but her commitment to a program of dance, study, and devotion falters when she meets a gentle-eyed boy.



*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

Set in remote 19<sup>th</sup>-century China, the story is about the lives of life-long friends. At the instigation of a matchmaker, Lily and Snow Flower, a girl from a larger town and supposedly from a well-connected, wealthy family, become *laotong*, bound together for life. Even after Lily learns that Snow Flower is not from a better family, even when Lily marries above her and Snow Flower beneath her, they remain close, exchanging *nu shu* written on a fan. When war comes, Lily is separated from her husband and children. She survives the winter helped by Snow Flower's husband, a lowly butcher, until she is reunited with her family. As the years pass, the women's relationship changes; Lily grows more powerful in her community, bitter, and harder, until at last she breaks her bond with Snow Flower.



*The Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska

This novel portrays the struggles of a Jewish immigrant family in the early 1920s as they attempt to deal with life in the “new world.” Part of the conflict centers on the battles between the main character and her father who tenaciously holds onto his values from the “old country.”



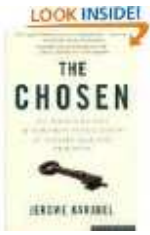
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.



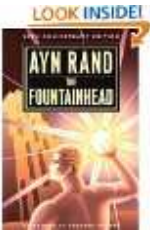
*The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan

Now suffering from Alzheimer's, Lu Ling's references to the past are confusing and contradictory. But when Ruth translates Lu Ling's lengthy journal, she learns that her mother was once a strong-willed, courageous girl who overcame a background of family secrets in war-torn China.



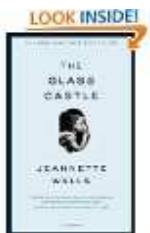
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

A compelling story, set in the Hasidic section of Williamsburg in Brooklyn, NY, is one of love and compassion and explores the relationship between two fathers and their sons. It examines the Jewish tradition and heritage that is dominant in this area. An excellent novel that is easy to understand, and one that the reader will not want to end.



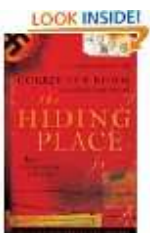
*The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand

*The Fountainhead* is the story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.



*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

Jeannette Walls, CNN correspondent, stops at a red light to gaze at the homeless woman picking through a dumpster. This woman is her mother and this memoir tells the tale of her childhood and her parents' eccentric lifestyle, a lifestyle Walls eventually escapes and comes to understand.



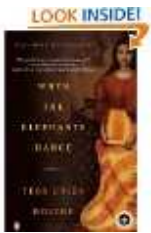
*The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom

This work of nonfiction tells the story of the Ten Boom family, Christians who were sent to a concentration camp for helping and hiding Jews during WWII. The story develops themes of forgiveness, security in the midst of insecurity, and dealing with difficult people during a time of war. The story demonstrated how not all people were evil during the Holocaust and that there were those who tried to help Jews during a time of immorality.



*Twisted* by Laurie R. King

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.



*When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe

Set in Manila during the final week of the Japanese-American battle for control of the islands, the novel centers on a small, mismatched group of families and neighbors who huddle in a cellar while Japanese occupiers terrorize and pillage above. Because food and water are scarce, some of the refugees must leave the shelter to forage for sustenance. In simple, strong language, Holthe conveys the terrifying experience of darting bullets and machetes above ground and the equally horrendous experience of waiting for loved ones to return. Grounded in Philippine myth and culture, the novel is filled with beautiful, allegorical stories told by the story's elders, who try to share wisdom and inspire their captive audience in the midst of gruesome violence.



*When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka

*When the Emperor Was Divine* tells one Japanese American family's story of internment in a Utah enemy alien camp during World War II. We never learn the names of the young boy and girl who were forced to leave their Berkeley home in 1942 and spend over three years in a dusty, barren desert camp with their mother. Occasional, heavily censored letters arrive from their father, who had been taken from their house in his slippers by the FBI one night and was being held in New Mexico, his fate uncertain. But even after the war, when they have been reunited and are putting their stripped, vandalized house back together, the family can never regain its pre-war happiness. Broken by circumstance and prejudice, they will continue to pay, in large and small ways, for the shape of their eyes.