

Great Mills High School Standard & College Merit Summer Reading Assignments

Summer 2009 11th 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
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Karin DuBois
English Department Chairperson
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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.

	Summer Assignment	School-approved Books
Grade 9	<p>All S & CM students: Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment & complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p>Honors: See assignment @ (http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments) for the following books: <i>Lord of the Flies</i>, William Golding <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>, Charles Dickens</p>	<p>Standard & College Merit Novel Titles:</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>
Grade 10	<p>All S & CM students Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment & complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p>Honors: See assignment @ (http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments) for the following books: <i>Siddhartha</i>, Herman Hesse <i>Julius Caesar</i>, William Shakespeare</p>	<p>Standard & College Merit Novel Titles:</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>
Grade 11	<p>All S & CM students Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment & complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p>AP: See assignment @ (http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments) 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>Standard & College Merit Novel Titles:</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>
Grade 12	<p>All S & CM students Choose a level 1, 2, or 3 assignment & complete according to the requirements listed at the top of this chart.</p> <p>AP: See assignment @ (http://schools.smcps.org/gmhs/summer-assignments) 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 & Punishment</i>, Fyodor Dostoevsky *(required selection) <i>How to Read Lit. Like a Professor</i>, Thomas C. Foster *(required selection)</p>	<p>Standard & College Merit Novel Titles:</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>
	* Summer Reading Journal Template for S & CM Students:	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 11 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.

- 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.

A Break with Charity by Ann Rinaldi

A Gathering of Flowers: Stories about Being Young in America

A Painted House by John Grisham

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

A Walk Across America by Peter Jenkins

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

America E.R. Frank

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

Crazy in Alabama by Mark Childress

Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

Empire Falls by Richard Russo

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

Gods and Generals by Jeff Shaara

How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents by Julia Alvarez

Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Manhunt by James L. Swanson

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

Nickle and Dimed (Not) Getting by In America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins

The Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene

The Right Stuff by Tom Wolff

Timeline by Michael Crichton

Wrapped in Rain by Charles Martin

High-interest Books for 11th Grade Standard & College Merit English Students



A Break with Charity by Ann Rinaldi

A fictionalized account of the Salem witch trials as told via the story of a young woman named Susanna English. Although Susanna has been told by one of the girls "crying out" that they are deliberately making up accusations, Susanna dares not speak up for fear that she and her family will also be accused of witchcraft. Will Susanna be able to stand by in silence as she sees other members of her community falsely accused?



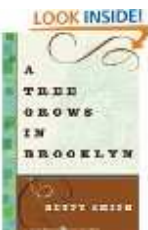
A Gathering of Flowers: Stories about Being Young in America

A collection of 11 short stories depicting what it is like to be a young American, exploring such diverse cultures as urban San Francisco, a Chippewa Indian reservation, and Latino barrio in Chicago.



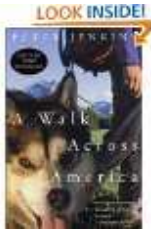
A Painted House by John Grisham

It's September 1952 in rural Arkansas when young narrator Luke Chandler notes that "the hill people and the Mexicans arrived on the same day." These folk are in Black Oak for the annual harvest of the cotton grown on the 80 acres that the Chandlers rent. The three generations of the Chandler family treat their workers more kindly than most farmers do, including engaging in the local obsession--playing baseball--with them, but serious trouble arises among the harvesters nonetheless. Most of it centers around Hank Spruill, a giant hillbilly with an equally massive temper, who one night in town beats a man dead and who throughout the book rubs up against a knife-wielding Mexican who is dating Hank's 17-year-old sister on the sly, leading to another murder.



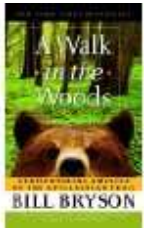
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Francie Nolan, avid reader, penny-candy connoisseur, and adroit observer of human nature, has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the century Brooklyn. She grows up with a sweet, tragic father, a severely realistic mother, and a brother who will always be the favored child. The resourceful Francie learns the meaning of hunger and the value of a penny as she struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.



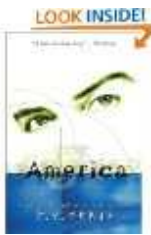
A Walk Across America by Peter Jenkins

Part travelogue and part memoir, this book captures the journey he makes down the Appalachian Trail during the 1970s. This is a local color story of the places Jenkins visits and the people he meets as he seeks to find what's good about America.



A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

Bryson shares his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail with a childhood friend. The two encounter eccentric characters, a blizzard, getting lost, and the threat of bears along the way.



America E.R. Frank

A young man named America gets "lost" in the social welfare system. After a series of foster homes, hospitals, and suicide attempts, he meets a caring psychiatrist who refuses to give up on him.



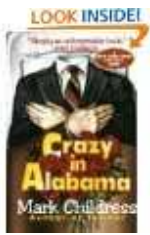
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee is Dee Brown's eloquent, fully documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the nineteenth century. Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows the great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them demoralized and defeated.



Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

Cat's Cradle is Vonnegut's satirical commentary on modern man and his madness. An apocalyptic tale of this planet's ultimate fate, it features a midget as the protagonist; a complete, original theology created by a calypso singer; and a vision of the future that is at once blackly fatalistic and hilariously funny. A book that left an indelible mark on an entire generation of readers. *Cat's Cradle* is one of this century's most important works... and Vonnegut at his very best.



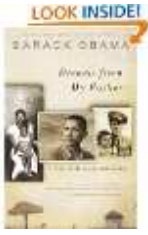
Crazy in Alabama by Mark Childress

This wise, funny novel opens as Peejoe's relatively tranquil life with his grandmother is jolted by the arrival of his Aunt Lucille, who is on her way to Hollywood to become a star after poisoning her husband. Peejoe and his older brother Wiley move on to their Uncle Dove's home in Industry, Ala., where racial conflict brings frightening bloodshed as well as oratory from George Wallace and Martin Luther King Jr. Meanwhile, on the road and in California, the newly emancipated Lucille brings every ounce of her desirability and determination to bear on her quest for stardom.



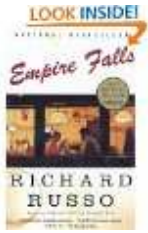
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

Two men, each handsome and unusually adept at his chosen work, embodied an element of the great dynamic that characterized America's rush toward the twentieth century. The architect was Daniel Hudson Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds—a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their deaths.



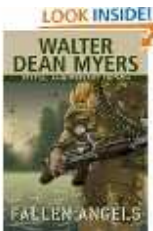
Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

Born to a white American woman and a black Kenyan student, Obama's not-unhappy youth is nevertheless a lonely voyage through racial identity, tensions in school, and struggling with black literature. His account is a poignant, probing memoir of an unusual life.



Empire Falls by Richard Russo

Wealthy, controlling matriarch Francine Whiting lives in an incongruous Spanish-style mansion across the river from smalltown Empire Falls, dominated by a long-vacant textile mill and shirt factory, once the center of her husband's family's thriving manufacturing dominion. In his early 40s, passive good guy Miles Roby, the son of Francine's husband's long-dead mistress, seems helpless to escape his virtual enslavement as longtime proprietor of the Whiting-owned Empire Grill, the town's most popular eatery, which Francine has promised to leave him when she dies. Miles's wife, Janine, is divorcing him and has taken up with an aging health club entrepreneur. In her senior year in high school, their creative but lonely daughter, Tick, is preoccupied by her parents' foibles and harassed by the bullying son of the town's sleazy cop who, like everyone else, is a puppet of the domineering Francine. Struggling to make some sense of her life, Tick tries to befriend a boy with a history of parental abuse.



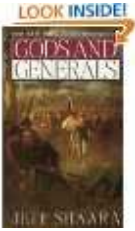
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, this is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U. S. is even there at all.



Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

Journalist Schlosser argues that the fast food industry has triggered the growth of malls in America's landscape, widened the gap between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. He discusses facts about food production and preparation, the ingredients and taste-enhancers in the food, the chains' efforts to reel in young, susceptible consumers, and other unsettling facts.



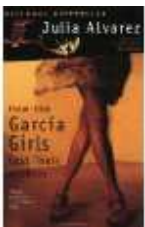
Gods and Generals by Jeff Shaara

This gripping fictional account of the three bloody days at Gettysburg won Michael Shaara a Pulitzer Prize and a vast, appreciative audience. When Michael Shaara died in 1988, his son Jeff began to manage his literary estate. It was a legacy he knew well, having helped his father create it. When director Ron Maxwell filmed the movie *Gettysburg*, based on *The Killer Angels*, he asked Jeff to serve as a consultant. Maxwell encouraged Shaara to continue the story his father began; inspired, Jeff planned an ambitious trilogy, with *The Killer Angels* as the centerpiece, following the war from its origins to its end. With *Gods and Generals*, Jeff Shaara gives fans of *The Killer Angels* everything they could have asked--an epic, brilliantly written saga that brings the nation's greatest conflict to life.



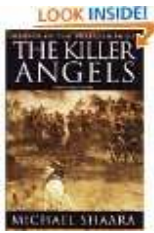
Into the Wild

The story of a young man who gave up all his money and possessions, hitchhiked to the Alaskan wilderness and whose body was found four months later. All that is known about his ordeal to survive is found in a series of letters and diary entries.



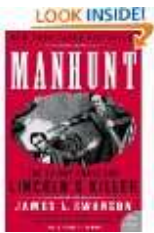
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents by Julia Alvarez

This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes.



Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

This compelling story about the Battle of Gettysburg gets inside the minds of the generals from both the North and the South. The reader understands the conflicts that drove these men to fight against their friends and fellow countrymen. The reader sees the Battle of Gettysburg complete with all its horror.



Manhunt by James L. Swanson

Has any other month in American history been as tumultuous as April 1865? In a matter of weeks, Richmond fell; the Confederacy collapsed and surrendered; President Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed; and, for 12 days, Lincoln's assassin, famed actor John Wilkes Booth, outraced and outsmarted his would-be captors before he was cornered in a barn and shot dead. In *Manhunt*, James L. Swanson retraces the search for a celebrity who succeeded in changing our history.



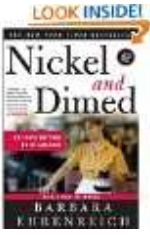
Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

No family member (even the dynasties of family pets) is forgotten in these pages of sardonic memories of Sedaris's numerous incarnations in North Carolina, Chicago, New York, and France.



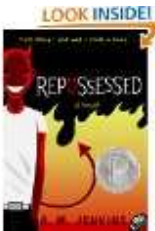
Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

Peter Houghton, an alienated teen who has been bullied for years by the popular crowd, brings weapons to his high school in Sterling, N.H., one day and opens fire, killing 10 people. Flashbacks reveal how bullying caused Peter to retreat into a world of violent computer games. Alex Cormier, the judge assigned to Peter's case, tries to maintain her objectivity as she struggles to understand her daughter, Josie, one of the surviving witnesses of the shooting.



Nickle and Dimed (Not) Getting by In America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Millions of Americans work for poverty-level wages, and one day Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 to \$7 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the "lowliest" occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity--a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate strategies for survival. Instantly acclaimed for its insight, humor, and passion, this book is changing the way America perceives its working poor.



Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins

A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings before being caught and punished while the boy's family puzzles over his changed behavior.



The Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper

When an elite club, The Warriors of Distinction, invites Jericho and his cousin Josh to pledge, the teens look forward to wearing the black silk jacket, going to great parties, and receiving the admiring glances of the other students at their Ohio high school. Even the girl Jericho has a crush on begins to show an interest in him. The initiation process begins rather tamely with the new pledges helping with the Christmas toy drive, but as it progresses, Jericho becomes increasingly uncomfortable with what they are asked to do and the way they treat Dana, the first-ever female pledge.



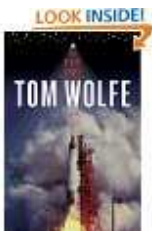
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Shockingly original and completely unforgettable, *The Lovely Bones* is the story of a family devastated by a gruesome murder -- a murder recounted by the teenage victim. Upsetting, you say? Remarkably, first-time novelist Alice Sebold takes this difficult material and delivers a compelling and accomplished exploration of a fractured family's need for peace and closure. The details of the crime are laid out in the first few pages: from her vantage point in heaven, Susie Salmon describes how she was confronted by the murderer one December afternoon on her way home from school. Lured into an underground hiding place, she was raped and killed. But Susie isn't ready to release her hold on life just yet, and she intensely watches her family and friends as they struggle to cope with a reality in which she is no longer a part.



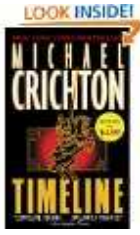
The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene

In his penetrating novel *The Power and the Glory*, Graham Greene explores corruption and atonement through a priest and the people he encounters. In the 1930s one Mexican state has outlawed the Church, naming it a source of greed and debauchery. The priests have been rounded up and shot by firing squad--save one, the whisky priest. On the run, and in a blur of alcohol and fear, this outlaw meets a dentist, a banana farmer, and a village woman he knew six years earlier. For a while, he is accompanied by a toothless man--whom he refers to as his Judas and does his best to ditch. Always, an adamant lieutenant is only a few hours behind, determined to liberate his country from the evils of the church.



The Right Stuff by Tom Wolff

A breath-taking epic, a magnificent adventure story, and an investigation into the true heroism and courage of the first Americans to conquer space.



Timeline by Michael Crichton

A group of scientists, having learned how to travel through time, enter life in fourteenth-century feudal France and threaten the history of the world.



Wrapped in Rain by Charles Martin

Tucker Mason is the motherless son of a wealthy, abusive alcoholic in a small Alabama town. While Dad spends most of his time in an Atlanta high-rise, Tucker grows up in an enormous manse--complete with a "chandelier made from elk horns"--tutored by an African-American widow in common courtesy, love and the gospel. After a few years, an illegitimate son turns up at the Mason compound, Tucker's half-brother, Mutt. Although Tucker eventually overcomes his gothic childhood and becomes an acclaimed international photographer, he can't escape the home place. The story picks up with Tucker's adulthood, when he makes peace with several individuals from his past, including the schizophrenic Mutt and an ex-girlfriend who's on the run from a nasty husband.