

Great Mills High School Standard & College Merit Summer Reading Assignments

Summer 2009 12th 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 12 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 Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood
Angels and Demons by Dan Brown
Behind the Mask by Jane Resh Thomas
Child of the Dark Prophecy by T.A. Barron
Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Daughter of Fortune by Isabella Allende
Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey
East of Eden by John Steinbeck
Emma by Jane Austen
No Country for Old Men by Cormack McCarthy
Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher, Ph.D.
Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason
Roma by Steven Saylor
Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Sophie's Choice by William Styron
The Book of Lost Things by John Connelly
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon
The Innocent Man by John Grisham
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch
The Great Santini by Pat Conroy
The Once and Future King by T.H.White
The Host by Stephenie Meyer
The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory
The Shipping News by Annie Proulx
The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult
The Time Traveler's Wife by Audry Niffenegger
Wicked by Gregory Maguire
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

High-interest Books for 12th Grade Standard & College Merit English Students



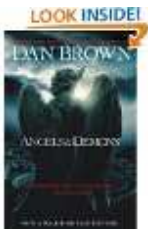
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

Diminutive Owen Meaney, the social outcast with the high, pinched voice, has an enormous influence on his friend Johnny Wheelwright--not least because the only baseball Owen ever hits causes the death of Johnny's mother. But as Johnny claims, "Owen gave me more than he ever took from me. . . . What did he ever say that wasn't right?" Spookily prescient, convinced that he is an instrument of God, Owen intimidates child and adult alike. Why Johnny "is a Christian because of Owen Meaney" is the novel's central mystery but not its only one: Who, for instance, was Johnny's father?



Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood

In 1843, a 16-year-old Canadian housemaid named Grace Marks was tried for the murder of her employer and his mistress. The sensationalistic trial made headlines throughout the world, and the jury delivered a guilty verdict. Yet opinion remained fiercely divided about Marks--was she a spurned woman who had taken out her rage on two innocent victims, or was she an unwilling victim herself, caught up in a crime she was too young to understand? Such doubts persuaded the judges to commute her sentence to life imprisonment, and Marks spent the next 30 years in an assortment of jails and asylums, where she was often exhibited as a star attraction.



Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

When world-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a mysterious symbol -- seared into the chest of a murdered physicist -- he discovers evidence of the unimaginable: the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati... Embarking on a frantic hunt through sealed crypts, dangerous catacombs, deserted cathedrals, and even to the heart of the most secretive vault on earth, Langdon and Vetra follow a 400-year old trail of ancient symbols that snakes across Rome toward the long-forgotten Illuminati lair... a secret location that contains the only hope for Vatican salvation.



Behind the Mask by Jane Resh Thomas

Elizabeth I impressed herself more vividly in the memory of the world than any other monarch in the history of England. She successfully established and maintained power while refusing to bow to the wishes of those who believed no woman was fit to occupy the English throne. This book shatters the myths that surround Elizabeth I and allows readers an unprecedented view of the queen as a human being.



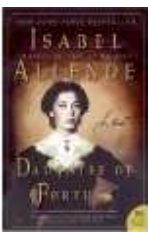
Child of the Dark Prophecy by T.A. Barron

The fate of Avalon rests in the hands of three people: Tamwyn, Elli, and Scree; however, one of them is the true heir of Merlin and the only one who can save Avalon, and one of them is the child of the Dark Prophecy, the person chosen to destroy it.



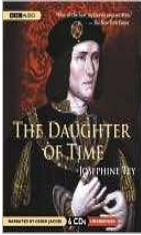
Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

This investigation of an ancient murder takes on the quality of a hallucinatory exploration, a deep and groping search into the gathering darkness of human intentions for a truth that continually slithers away.



Daughter of Fortune by Isabella Allende

An orphan raised in Valparaíso, Chile, by a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, young, vivacious Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. She enters a rough-and-tumble world whose newly arrived inhabitants are driven mad by gold fever. With the help of her good friend and savior, the Chinese doctor Tao Chi'en, Eliza moves freely in a society of single men and prostitutes, creating an unconventional but independent life for herself. The young Chilean's search for her elusive lover gradually turns into another kind of journey, and by the time she finally hears news of him, Eliza must decide who her true love really is.



Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey

Josephine Tey is often referred to as the mystery writer for people who don't like mysteries. Her skills at character development and mood setting, and her tendency to focus on themes not usually touched upon by mystery writers, have earned her a vast and appreciative audience. In *Daughter of Time*, Tey focuses on the legend of Richard III, the evil hunchback of British history accused of murdering his young nephews. While at a London hospital recuperating from a fall, Inspector Alan Grant becomes fascinated by a portrait of King Richard. A student of human faces, Grant cannot believe that the man in the picture would kill his own nephews. With an American researcher's help, Grant delves into his country's history to discover just what kind of man Richard Plantagenet was and who *really* killed the little princes.



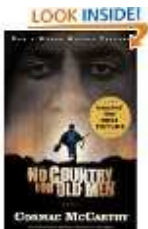
East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Steinbeck probes the psyche of two brothers and their life long conflicts. This classic novel has biblical parallels and is layered with symbolism that resonated truths about the human condition.



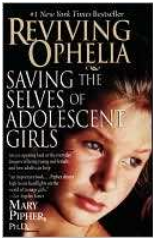
Emma by Jane Austen

Emma is the story of the eponymous Miss Woodhouse who, having lost her close companion Anne Taylor to marriage, sets out on an ill-fated career of match-making in the town of Highbury. Taking as her subject the pretty but dreary Harriet Smith, she manages to cause misunderstandings with every new tactic she employs. Though precious and spoilt, Emma is charming to all around her and so it takes her some time to learn her lesson and profit from spending less time worrying about how other people should live their lives.



No Country for Old Men by Cormack McCarthy

A mesmerizing modern-day western set in southwest Texas. Llewelyn Moss, hunting antelope near the Rio Grande, stumbles across several dead men, a bunch of heroin, and 2.4 million dollars. The bulk of the novel is a gripping man-on-the run sequence.



Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher, Ph.D.

In *Reviving Ophelia*, Dr. Mary Pipher takes the reader through riveting accounts of the trials, successes, and losses experienced by adolescent girls. A clinical psychologist who has treated girls for more than 20 years, Pipher describes the therapeutic process through which these accounts unfold. More importantly, she draws our attention to what adolescent girls of our time have to say about their relationships, their lives, and their futures.



Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason

Caldwell and Thomason's intriguing intellectual suspense novel stars four brainy roommates at Princeton, two of whom have links to a mysterious 15th-century manuscript, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. This rare text (a real book) contains embedded codes revealing the location of a buried Roman treasure. The four seniors are Tom Sullivan, Paul Harris, Charlie Freeman and Gil Rankin. Tom, the narrator, is the son of a Renaissance scholar who spent his life studying the ancient book, "an encyclopedia masquerading as a novel, a dissertation on everything from architecture to zoology." The manuscript is also an endless source of fascination for Paul, who sees it as "a siren, a fetching song on a distant shore, all claws and clutches in person. You court her at your risk."



Roma by Steven Saylor

Roma is a sprawling novel that uses two families to tell the history of Rome from its beginnings in 100 B.C. as a stop on the salt trade to the founding of the empire.



Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

The time is the 1950s; the place, Barcelona. Daniel Sempere, the son of a widowed bookstore owner, is 10 when he discovers a novel, *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julián Carax. The novel is rare, the author obscure, and rumors tell of a horribly disfigured man who has been burning every copy he can find of Carax's novels. The man calls himself Láin Coubert—the name of the devil in one of Carax's novels. As he grows up, Daniel's fascination with the mysterious Carax links him to a blind femme fatale with a "porcelain gaze," Clara Barceló; another fan, a leftist jack-of-all-trades, Fermín Romero de Torres; his best friend's sister, the delectable Beatriz Aguilar; and, as he begins investigating the life and death of Carax, a cast of characters with secrets to hide. Officially, Carax's dead body was dumped in an alley in 1936. But discrepancies in this story surface. Meanwhile, Daniel and Fermín are being harried by a sadistic policeman, Carax's childhood friend. As Daniel's quest continues, frightening parallels between his own life and Carax's begin to emerge.



Sophie's Choice by William Styron

Stingo has been fired from his low-level reader's job at the publisher McGraw Hill and has moved into a cheap apartment building in Brooklyn, where he hopes to devote some months to his writing. While he is working on his novel, he is drawn into the lives of the lovers Nathan Landau and Sophie Zawistowska, fellow inhabitants of the building, who are involved in an intense and difficult relationship. Sophie is a beautiful, Polish-Catholic survivor of the concentration camps of World War II, and Nathan is a Jewish-American - and, purportedly, a genius.



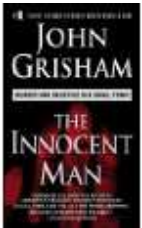
The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly

David is thrust into a realm where eternal stories and fairy tales assume an often gruesome reality. Books are the magic that speak to David, whose mother has died at the start of WWII after a long debilitating illness. His father remarries, and soon his stepmother is pregnant with yet another interloper who will threaten David's place in his father's life. When a portal to another world opens in time-honored fashion, David enters a land of beasts and monsters where he must undertake a quest if he is to earn his way back out.



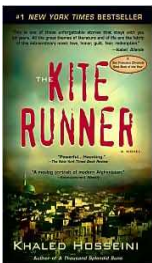
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

This mystery story is told in the first person by a 15-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome (which is essentially high-functioning autism) whose obsession lies with mathematics. Christopher Boone is a mathematical savant, able to understand and create complex mathematical arguments with utmost ease. Though he is completely devoid of the ability to recognize human emotions, to comprehend metaphors, or filter the overwhelming sensory cacophony of the everyday world, Christopher sets out on a difficult journey, with mathematics serving as the only stable unchanging facet in his crumbling world.



The Innocent Man by John Grisham

In the major league draft of 1971, the first player chosen from the State of Oklahoma was Ron Williamson. When he signed with the Oakland A's, he said goodbye to his hometown of Ada and left to pursue his dreams of big league glory. Six years later he was back, his dreams broken by a bad arm and bad habits—drinking, drugs, and women. He began to show signs of mental illness. Unable to keep a job, he moved in with his mother and slept twenty hours a day on her sofa. In 1982, a 21-year-old cocktail waitress in Ada named Debra Sue Carter was raped and murdered, and for five years the police could not solve the crime. For reasons that were never clear, they suspected Ron Williamson and his friend Dennis Fritz. The two were finally arrested in 1987 and charged with capital murder.



The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner follows the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant. As children in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970s, the boys are inseparable. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever, and eventually cements their bond in ways neither boy could have ever predicted. Even after Amir and his father flee to America, Amir remains haunted by his cowardly actions and disloyalty. In part, it is these demons and the sometimes impossible quest for forgiveness that bring him back to his war-torn native land after it comes under Taliban rule.



The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have time to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave—"Really Achieving your Childhood Dreams" wasn't about dying, but it was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, and of seizing every moment.



The Great Santini by Pat Conroy

Step into the powerhouse life of Bull Meecham. He's all Marine-fighter pilot, king of the clouds, and absolute ruler of his family. Lillian is his wife—beautiful, southern-bred, with a core of velvet steel. Without her cool head, her kids would be in real trouble. Ben is the oldest, a born athlete who's best never satisfies the big man. Ben's got to stand up, even fight back, against a father who doesn't give in—not to his men, not to his wife, and certainly not to his son.



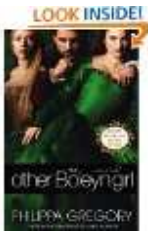
The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The whole world knows and loves this book. It is the magical epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot; of Merlin and Owl and Guinevere; of beasts who talk and men who fly, of wizardry and war. It is the book of all things lost and wonderful and sad. It is the fantasy masterpiece by which all others are judged.



The Host by Stephenie Meyer

In this tantalizing SF thriller, planet-hopping parasites are inserting their silvery centipede selves into human brains, curing cancer, eliminating war and turning Earth into paradise. But some people want Earth back, warts and all, especially Melanie Stryder, who refuses to surrender, even after being captured in Chicago and becoming a host for a soul called Wanderer. Melanie uses her surviving brain cells to persuade Wanderer to help search for her loved ones in the Arizona desert. When the pair find Melanie's brother and her boyfriend in a hidden rebel cell led by her uncle, Wanderer is at first hated. Once the rebels accept Wanderer, whom they dub Wanda, Wanda's whole perspective on humanity changes.



The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

Sisterly rivalry is the basis of this fresh, wonderfully vivid retelling of the story of Anne Boleyn. Anne, her sister Mary and their brother George are all brought to the king's court at a young age, as players in their uncle's plans to advance the family's fortunes. Mary, the sweet, blond sister, wins King Henry VIII's favor when she is barely 14 and already married to one of his courtiers. Their affair lasts several years, and she gives Henry a daughter and a son. But her dark, clever, scheming sister, Anne, insinuates herself into Henry's graces, styling herself as his adviser and confidant. Soon she displaces Mary as his lover and begins her machinations to rid him of his wife, Katherine of Aragon. This is only the beginning of the intrigue that Gregory so handily chronicles, capturing beautifully the mingled hate and nearly incestuous love Anne, Mary and George ("kin and enemies all at once") feel for each other and the toll their family's ambition takes on them.



The Shipping News by Annie Proulx

In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoye. From all outward appearances, Quoye has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoye's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life.



The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult

Trixie Stone is an imaginative, perceptive 14 year old whose life begins to unravel when Jason Underhill, Bethel High's star hockey player, breaks up with her, leaving a void that can only be filled by the blood spilled during shameful self-mutilations in the girls' bathroom. While Trixie's dad Daniel notices his daughter's recent change in demeanor, he turns a blind eye, just as he does to the obvious affair his wife Laura, a college professor, is barely trying to conceal. When Trixie gets raped at a friend's party, Daniel and Laura are forced to deal not only with the consequences of their daughter's physical and emotional trauma, but with their own transgressions as well. For Daniel, that means reflecting on a childhood spent as the only white kid in a native Alaskan village, where isolation and loneliness turned him into a recluse, only to be born again after falling in love with his wife. Laura, who blames her family's unraveling on her selfish affair, must decide how to reconcile her personal desires with her loved ones' needs.



The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

A dazzling novel in the most untraditional fashion, this is the remarkable story of Henry DeTamble, a dashing, adventuresome librarian who travels involuntarily through time, and Clare Abshire, an artist whose life takes a natural sequential course. Henry and Clare's passionate love affair endures across a sea of time and captures the two lovers in an impossibly romantic trap, and it is Audrey Niffenegger's cinematic storytelling that makes the novel's unconventional chronology so vibrantly triumphant. An enchanting debut and a spellbinding tale of fate and belief in the bonds of love, *The Time Traveler's Wife* is destined to captivate readers for years to come.



Wicked by Gregory Maguire

In Maguire's *Oz*, Elphaba, better known as the Wicked Witch of the West, is not wicked; nor is she a formally schooled witch. Instead, she's an insecure, unfortunately green Munchkinlander who's willing to take radical steps to unseat the tyrannical Wizard of Oz. Using an appropriately brusque voice for the always blunt Elphaba, McDonough relates her tumultuous childhood (spent with an alcoholic mother and a minister father) and eye-opening school years (when she befriends her roommate, Glinda).



Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

Arguable one of the most profoundly important essays ever written on the nature and significance of “quality,” it is set as a story of a cross-country trip on a motorcycle by a father and son through 2,000 years of Western philosophy.