

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

Summer 2009 9<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)

Karin DuBois  
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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 9 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.

*Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher

*Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace

*Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn

*Coraline* Neil Gaiman

*Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury

*Driver's Ed* by Caroline B. Cooney

*Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin

*Enrique's Journey* by Sonja Nazario

*First They Killed My Father: a Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung

*Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger

*Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

*Inkheart* by Cornelia Caroline Funke

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

*Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff

*Marley and Me* by John Grogan

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

*Night Hoops* by Carl Deuker

*October Sky* (aka *Rocket Boys*) by Homer Hickam

*Slam!* By Walter Dean Myers

*Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulson

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

*The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci

*The Burn Journals* by Brent Runyon

*The Great Escape* by Paul Brickhill

*The Rag and Bone Shop* by Robert Cormier

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

*The Secret Hour* by Scott Westerfeld

*The Sledding Hill* by Chris Crutcher

*Troy* by Adele Geras

*Wolf Rider* by Avi

## High-interest Books for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Standard & College Merit English Students



*Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher

The stereotype of jocks as insensitive dullards is challenged in stories that grapple with the big questions of life as well as with athletic prowess, told with good-natured aplomb and gritty honesty.



*Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace

In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. There wasn't anything he couldn't do -- and do well. He could outrun anybody. He never missed a day of school, even in the worst blizzard. He saved lives. Animals loved him, people loved him, and women loved him. He was an inspired salesman -- a visionary, in fact. And he knew more jokes than any man alive. Or at least that's what he's told his son, William. William doesn't really know his father because, actually, Edward wasn't home all that much. What William knows about his father he's had to piece together from the little bits of stories he's gathered over the years. Now, watching his father die, William grows increasingly desperate to know him before it's too late. And in a wonderful sleight of hand, William recreates his elusive father's life in a series of legends and myths inspired by the few facts he knows. Through these tales, William begins to understand Edward Bloom's great feats -- and his great failings. He manages, somehow, to reckon with the father he's about to lose. And he finds a way to say good-bye.



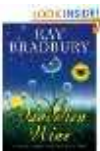
*Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn

A gripping tale of a 16-year-old, who is considered perfect by his classmates, suffers a turbulent home life with an abusive father, and he himself follows the pattern of violence.



*Coraline* Neil Gaiman

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.



*Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury

*Dandelion Wine* takes us into the summer of 1928, and to all the wondrous and magical events in the life of a 12-year-old Midwestern boy named Douglas Spaulding.



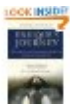
*Driver's Ed* by Caroline B. Cooney

Cooney writes of a night of thrill-seeking gone wrong when a young mother dies as a result of a prank by three teenagers.



*Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."



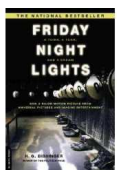
*Enrique's Journey* by Sonja Nazario

When Enrique is five years old, his mother, Lourdes, too poor to feed her children, leaves Honduras to work in the United States. After eleven years apart, he decides he will go find her. Enrique sets off alone from Tegucigalpa, with little more than a slip of paper bearing his mother's North Carolina telephone number. Without money, he will make the dangerous and illegal trek up the length of Mexico the only way he can--clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains. With gritty determination and a deep longing to be by his mother's side, Enrique travels through hostile, unknown worlds. It is an epic journey, one thousands of immigrant children make each year to find their mothers in the United States.



*First They Killed My Father: a Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung

Covering the years from 1975 to 1979, the story moves from the deaths of multiple family members to the forced separation of the survivors, leading ultimately to the reuniting of much of the family, followed by marriages and immigrations. The brutality seems unending--beatings, starvation, attempted rape, mental cruelty--and yet the narrator (a young girl) never stops fighting for escape and survival. Sad and courageous, her life and the lives of her young siblings provide quite a powerful example of how war can so deeply affect children--especially a war in which they are trained to be an integral part of the armed forces.



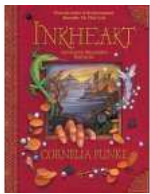
*Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger

*Friday Night Lights* is about the Permian High School Panthers football team in the 1988 season. In Odessa, TX, they only "have two things - football and oil, and there ain't no more oil." Carried on the adolescent shoulders of the black-clad Panthers are the hopes, dreams, aspirations, and societal well-being of an entire community. The book focuses on the intense scrutiny and pressure placed on the players, coaches, and even families associated with the program.



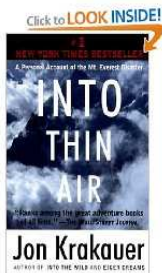
*Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

Icy Sparks tell her own story of growing up during the 1950s in a small Kentucky town where her uncontrollable outbursts make her an object of fright and scorn. "The Saturday after my [10th] birthday, the eye blinking and poppings began.... I could feel little invisible rubber bands fastened to my eyelids, pulled tight through my brain and attached to the back of my head," says Icy, who thinks of herself as the "frog child from Icy Creek." Orphaned and cared for by her loving grandparents, Icy weathers the taunts of a mean schoolteacher and, later, a crush on a boy that ends in disappointment. But she also finds real friendship with the enormously fat Miss Emily, who offers kindness and camaraderie.



*Inkheart* by Cornelia Caroline Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel *Inkheart* years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the novel.



*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

Heroism and sacrifice triumph over foolishness, fatal error, and human frailty in this bone-chilling narrative in which the author recounts his experiences on last year's ill-fated, deadly climb.



*Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff

When LaVaughn takes a job babysitting for Jolly, an abused, 17-year-old single parent who lives with her two children in squalor, her mother is not sure it's a good idea. How the girl's steady support helps Jolly to bootstrap herself into better times and how Jolly, in turn, helps her young friend to clarify her own values are the subjects of this complex, powerful narrative.



*Marley and Me* by John Grogan

When the Grogans brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy, life would never be the same. Marley grew into a barreling, ninety-seven-pound streamroller of a Labrador retriever. He crashed through screen doors, gouged through drywall, and stole women's undergarments. Obedience school did no good -- Marley was expelled. But just as Marley joyfully refused any limits on his behavior, his love and loyalty were boundless, too. *Marley & Me* is John Grogan's funny, unforgettable tribute to this wonderful, wildly neurotic Lab and the meaning he brought to their lives.



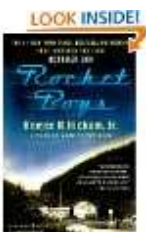
*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate -- a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister -- and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.



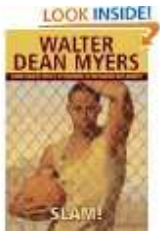
*Night Hoops* by Carl Deuker

Nick Abbott finds himself trying to deal with his parent's divorce and a host of other problems that face him during his sophomore year. He wants above all else to be a star player on his high school basketball team. As the story progresses, Nick learns how to control the tempo of a game as a point guard, and he also begins to reach a greater maturity in his life. Central to the story is his relationship with his disturbed and angry teammate and neighbor, Trent Dawson.



*October Sky* (aka *Rocket Boys*) by Homer Hickam

In 1957, fourteen-year-old Homer decides to build his own rockets. Homer's mother wants him to become something other than a coal miner, and along with a female science teacher, Homer is inspired to create the Big Creek Missile Agency and to grow up to become a NASA engineer.



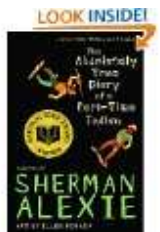
*Slam!* By Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court. His grades aren't so hot, though. And when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, Slam blows up. He never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one on one with his future.



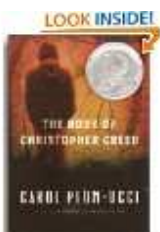
*Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen

Addressing the most fundamental themes of life and death, the versatile Paulsen produces a searing antiwar story. He bases his protagonist, Charley Goddard, on an actual Civil War soldier, a 15-year-old from Minnesota who lied about his age and ended up participating in most of the war's major battles.



*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.



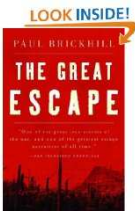
*The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci

When class freak Chris Creed suddenly disappears, his fellow students are not so much worried but abuzz with speculation: Is he a runaway, a suicide, a crime victim? Through a complicated but believable turn of events, narrator Torey Adams, a popular 16-year-old, starts to feel some concern and resolves to find the truth. His unlikely allies are two kids of dubious social status: Ali, who is Chris's neighbor, and Ali's boyfriend, Bo, a "boon" (shorthand for boondocks) with a juvenile record.



*The Burn Journals* by Brent Runyon

The true story of Brent Runyon, who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eight percent of his body and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together.



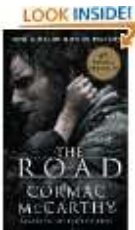
*The Great Escape* by Paul Brickhill

They were American and British air force officers in a German prison camp. With only their bare hands and the crudest of homemade tools, they sank shafts, forged passports, faked weapons, and tailored German uniforms and civilian clothes. They developed a fantastic security system to protect themselves from German surveillance. It was a split-second operation as delicate and as deadly as a time bomb. It demanded the concentrated devotion and vigilance of more than six hundred men—every one of them, every minute, every hour, every day and night for more than a year.



*The Rag and Bone Shop* by Robert Cormier

A 7-year-old girl has been battered to death, and there are no suspects, no leads. The police, under political pressure to make an arrest, bring in Trent, a cold, ambitious professional interrogator who prides himself on his ability to extract confessions. His victim is 12-year-old Jason--the last person to see the girl. We know that Jason is innocent, and halfway through the interrogation Trent realizes it, too, in "a blazing moment." But like a medieval torturer, his goal is confession, not truth, and so he stifles his impulses for good and proceeds with the job, with deeply ironic consequences.



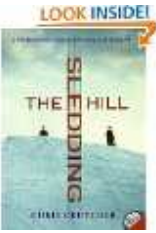
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love.



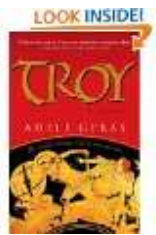
*The Secret Hour* by Scott Westerfeld

Upon moving to Bixby, Oklahoma, fifteen-year-old Jessica Day learns that she is one in a special group born at the stroke of midnight who can roam the town at a secret hour while others sleep, and that she must fight the evil creatures who share her power.



*The Sledding Hill* by Chris Crutcher

Eddie Proffit, 14, is a prototypical Crutcher protagonist, a misunderstood teen who in quick succession has lost his father and best friend, Billy, in accidents. And he must deal with Mr. Tartar, who is both a feared English teacher at school and the minister to a flock of Protestant fundamentalists at the Red Brick Church.



*Troy* by Adele Geras

Adele Geras retells the story of the siege of Troy. The great battles of the bronze-clad warriors and the clashes between Achilles and Hector and Odysseus are seen at a distance from the walls of the city, where the Trojan townsfolk gather to sit each day and cheer the action like spectators at some archaic football game.



*Wolf Rider* by Avi

On an ordinary evening, just as he's about to leave for a party, 15-year-old Andy Zadinski receives a phone call from a stranger that changes his life. The caller, Zeke, confesses to the murder of a young woman named Nina Klemmer. Andy immediately calls the police, who shrug it off as a gag or a crank call. But Andy persists in his investigation.