

Marshfield High School
English Department
~ Incoming Grade 10 Books and Summer Assignments ~

The English Department at Marshfield High School is pleased to present this year's summer reading program. We hope you enjoy your book(s)!

Each student must select a book from their grade level list and complete the corresponding assignment. **Students entering level 0 will read additional books and complete additional assessments.**

Since we are offering many choices, students should obtain copies of their selected books from the local libraries, local bookstores, or online sources. If a student is unable to obtain a copy, please contact Patty Ridolfi, English Department Head, via email at PRidolfi@mpsd.org.

READ WHAT INTERESTS YOU! ENJOY!

<p>Level 0 (Honors): Read <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding AND choose one book from the list below</p>	<p>Honors Assessments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Lord of the Flies</i>: Be prepared for an in-class assessment in the first week of school <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> 2. Choice from List: Be prepared for an in-class assessment in the first week of school. You will be asked for details from the book. (See note-taking guide)
<p>Level 1 and Level 2: Choose one book from the list below</p>	<p>Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choice from List: Be prepared for an in-class assessment in the first week of school. You will be asked for details from the book. (See note-taking guide)

10th Grade Book List: Moral Choice (overcoming personal struggles/obstacles)

- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
 - The condemned man is Jefferson, a poorly educated man/child whose only crimes are a dim intelligence, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and being black in rural Louisiana in the late 1940s. To everyone, even his own defense attorney, he's an animal, too dumb to understand what is happening to him. But his godmother, Miss Emma, decides that Jefferson will die a man. To accomplish just that, she brings Grant Wiggins, the teacher at the plantation's one-room school and narrator of the novel, into the story. Emotionally blackmailed by two strong-willed old ladies, Grant reluctantly begins visiting Jefferson, committing both men to the painful task of self-discovery. As in his earlier novels, Gaines evokes a sense of reality through rich detail and believable characters in this simple, moving story. YAs who seek thought-provoking reading will enjoy this glimpse of life in the rural South just before the civil rights movement. *From School Library Journal*
- *Hoop Dreams: A True Story of Hardship and Triumph* by Ben Joravsky *drug use
 - For nearly five years Arthur Agee's and William Gates' remarkable lives were chronicled by a team of filmmakers. Roughly 250 hours of film were devoted to their journeys from the playgrounds to high school competition to college recruitment and — whittled down to three hours — it became the award-winning film *Hoop Dreams*. Now journalist Ben Joravsky vividly brings to light all the richness and subtlety of their stories, and the impact their aspirations had on themselves, their families and their relationships. It is an intimate look, complete with an up-to-date epilogue on the latest developments in their lives. *From Barnes and Noble*
- *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers
 - The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water. *From Barnes and Noble*

- **MAUS** by Art Spiegelman
 - With this stunning addition to Holocaust literature, the American cartoon strip as a vehicle for nonfantasy content takes an impressive step forward. Like Harvey Pekar in *American Splendor* (1986), Spiegelman takes his own life for subject matter. But whereas Pekar is a realistic humorist, Spiegelman's forte is grim self-observation. In *Maus*, he queries his cantankerous father about what it was like to live through the Nazi occupation of Poland and the death camps. So this decidedly unfrivolous comic book is, first, the father's story, and, second, the portrayal of the son's edgy relationship with the old man. In physical decline—he has a harrowing heart seizure during one of their conversations—Vladek Spiegelman seems permanently shocked by his experiences into a personal psychology of hardship. He can give nothing but his story. His son writes and draws it forcefully. He uses a simple iconographic device to evoke the terror of his father's times: the Jews all have mice's heads; the Germans, those of cats. A follow-up volume is forthcoming. *From Booklist*
- **In Country** by Bobbie Ann Mason *suggestive content
 - Sam, 17, is obsessed with the Vietnam War and the effect it has had on her life, losing a father she never knew and now living with Uncle Emmett, who seems to be suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. In her own forthright way, she tries to sort out why and how Vietnam has altered the lives of the vets of Hopewell, Kentucky. Her untempered curiosity and imagination sprint off in all directions as she examines closely the often undiscussed, but always noticed, aspects of daily life. In this coming-of-age novel, Sam ponders many problems, among them Emmett's crusty, salve-covered pimples, veteran Tom's inability to have an erection and her good friend Dawn's pregnancy. Although Sam lives in a disheveled, tawdry house, she brings a freshness of spirit to the way she scrutinizes and revels in life. When she wants to understand living conditions in the Vietnam jungles, she decides she has to experience it, so spends the night beside a local swamp. A harshly realistic, well-written look at the Vietnam War as well as the story of a young woman maturing. *From School Library Journal*

* Indicates the book contains some mature content or serious subject matter.

Assignment (all levels):

Take notes and be prepared for an assessment during the first week of school.

Note Taking Guide:

It is *highly recommended* that you take notes while reading.

Focus your attention on the elements of fiction and storytelling:

- Setting
- Plot
- Character
- Conflict
- Point of view
- Theme

Think back to what you covered in 9th grade as you take your notes.

Your summer reading test will focus on these essential elements.