

Marshfield High School
English Department
~ Incoming Grade 9 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>Into The Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer AND choose one book from the list below</p>	<p>Honors Assessments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Into The Wild</i>: Be prepared for an in-class assessment in the first week of school AND 2. Choice from List: Complete five, typed journal entries about the book of your choice from the list below. You will submit them to your English teacher during the first week of school. (See Journal Prompt List)
<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: Complete five, typed journal entries about the book of your choice from the list below. You will submit them to your English teacher during the first week of school. (See Journal Prompt List)

9th Grade Book List: Coming of Age

- *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque *wartime violence
 - Paul Baumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful, enthusiastic, they become soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. And as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other--if only he can come out of the war alive. *From Barnes and Noble*
- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
 - Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams. *From Barnes and Noble*
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok
 - The Jewish enclaves of Brooklyn, NY, form the backdrop for Chaim Potok's classic novel (Fawcett, 1975) that begins just before D-Day and traces the unlikely friendship of two Jewish teens as they watch World War II draw to a close and the new state of Israel emerge. The story revolves around the evolving, and sometimes painful, relationships between these boys and their fathers, and the conflicts the young men must face as they come of age. Jonathan Davis narrates with a gentle touch that warmly conveys the book's serious, and occasionally playful, text. *From School Library Journal*
- *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens
 - Dickens's favorite of all his novels, *David Copperfield* is the story of a boy who loses both parents at an early age, and who escapes the torture of working for his pitiless stepfather to make something of himself and, with any luck, find true happiness. *David Copperfield* features an unforgettable gallery of characters, including David's cruel stepfather Mr. Murdstone, the unctuous Uriah Heep, the amiable Mr. Micawber, whom Dickens based on his father, and Dora Spenglow, whom David marries and calls his "child-wife." Written in the first person, *David Copperfield* is perhaps the most autobiographical of Dickens's fictions. *From Barnes and Noble*

- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
 - Death himself narrates the story of Liesel, a German girl left with foster parents just before the outbreak of World War II. Along the way to her new home with her younger brother, he dies; after the funeral, Liesel steals *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, though she cannot yet read. It's only the first of what will become a series of book thefts. As she settles in with her harsh but caring foster mother, Rosa, and kind foster father, Hans, Liesel gets to know her poor neighborhood and learns to read. Her obsession with books grows as the war closes in, rationing is put in place, air raids begin, and Hans hides a Jewish man in the basement. Through it all, Death travels the Earth, taking in more and more souls every day. *From Common Sense Media*
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson *date rape
 - High school should be the best time of Melinda's life. Instead, freshman year is a nightmare as Melinda finds herself rejected by her friends, cut off from her parents, and unable to reveal a terrible secret. In fact, she isn't speaking at all. Melinda's slow healing process is a realistic and compelling one, and readers will cheer for her when she finally does use her voice. *From Common Sense Media*
- *Solo* by Kwame Alexander *written in verse (poetry); *contains drug references
 - Blade Morrison has one parent who is dead, another who's a rock legend and legendary screw up, a girlfriend who has to keep their relationship secret, and a sister who straddles the line between super annoying and somewhat supportive. He lives under the Morrison family cloud of fame, excess, and celebrity that shelters and imprisons him. There's also a big family secret looming that will rock his world -- and not in a good way. When Blade's dad's addiction screws up the biggest day of Blade's life, he makes a decision to cut loose from the family and the fame, and looks to a future with his girl, Chapel. Will Blade break free of the notoriety of being a Morrison? Will Chapel get free of her family? And is there any hope that Blade's dad will break free from his addiction? Family, secrets, fame, and music drive Blade to places he never imagined, including a little village in Ghana. * Written in Verse (poetry) * *From Common Sense Media*

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

Assignment:

Select one book from the 9th Grade Book List (“Coming of Age”). While reading, stop every few chapters to respond to one of the journal prompts. You must **select and respond to five of the prompts on the list.**

- You must type your five responses in Word or Google Docs.
- You will submit your responses electronically to your English teacher when you arrive at MHS in the fall.
- You may not respond to the same prompt more than once. The use of internet sources is strongly discouraged as all journal responses will be run through plagiarism software.

JOURNAL PROMPT LIST (12 options):

Character

1. Which minor character in the text plays an important role? Explain.
2. Could you see yourself as being a friend of the main character? Why.
3. Describe the greatest challenge the main character encountered. How does he/she overcome it? What does he/she learn? Explain.
4. Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?

Conflict

5. Describe a conflict that the main character faces. Then, what advice would you give to help the main character through the conflict. Explain.

General

6. If you could change one aspect of the book, what would it be? Explain.
7. What issues arise in the text that are relevant in today's society? Explain.
8. Why was this title chosen for the book? What other titles would work for this book? Explain.
9. Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?
10. If the author were to write a sequel to this book, what do you think would happen to the characters next? A new conflict?

Setting

11. How important is the setting to the novel? Explain.
12. If you could choose an alternative setting for this book what would it be and how would it impact the story? Explain.

Journal Response Grading Rubric

Summer Reading Assessment Freshman Year	Advanced 5	Proficient 4	Fair 3	Needs Improvement 2-1	Doesn't meet requirement 0
Completion of journal entries ____ x 2 = ____/10 pts	Completed all 5 journal response, at least two paragraphs each	Completed 5 journal responses, at least one paragraph each	Completed all five journals, but they are of unsatisfactory length	Fewer than five journals completed	Failed to complete assignment
Insight and understanding ____ x 3 = ____/15 pts	Journal responses clearly demonstrate student understanding and insight into the book and fully address all aspects of the prompts	Journal responses show some understanding and insight into the book and adequately respond to the prompts	Journal responses show little understanding of the book and respond to prompts only superficially	Journal responses show little or no understanding of the book and do not adequately respond to the prompts	
Content ____ x 3 = ____/15 pts	Journal responses demonstrate rich, thoughtful literary analysis through reflections on specific supporting details from the book	Journal responses demonstrate literary analysis through reflections on some details from the book.	Journal responses demonstrate superficial or vague analysis through reflections on some details from the book	Journal responses include few reflections on general content of the book; few, if any, details	
Grammar, spelling and punctuation ____ x 2 = ____/10 pts	Very few or no errors evident	Few errors evident	Many errors evident	Many errors which interfere with communication	
TOTAL ____ /50 pts					

1 - 2 pts =	11-13 pts =	23-24 pts =	35-36 pts =	43-44 pts =
3-4 pts =	14-17 pts =	25-27 pts =	36-37 pts =	45-46 pts =
5-6 pts =	18 pts =	28-29 pts =	38-39 pts =	47 pts =
8-9 pts =	19 - 20 pts = 65%	30 pts = 75%	40 pts = 85%	48-49 pts =
10 pts = 50%	21-22 pts =	32-34 pts =	42 - 41 pts =	50 pts = 100%