Montgomery High School 2012-2013 Freshman Summer Reading

Hello, incoming freshman! Beginning with your freshman class, we as the Montgomery High School English department are instituting a summer reading program. Below you will find a list of ten books from a variety of genres. Each student will need to choose at least one of the books to read over the summer. **If you will be in Advanced English I, you will be required to read Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, along with any other book on the list.** Although it is possible to obtain these books by way of public libraries, we recommend purchasing the book you choose; this way you can annotate your copy with questions and comments as well as highlight the text to aid your reading and analysis. If you check a book out from the library, sticky notes allow for great on-the-page note taking. First, pick something you feel you will enjoy and read the book through completely for the enjoyment. After this, go back in the text and focus on story structure, characters, setting, plot, point of view, and thematic elements. Be prepared for a cursory quiz and/or essay at the beginning of school. We are extremely excited to teach you all next year. Have a great summer!

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<th>Book Title and Author</th>
<th>Synopsis</th>
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<td><strong>Fahrenheit 451</strong> (REQUIRED FOR ADVANCED) Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>“In Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury's classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires--they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad.” (From Amazon.com)</td>
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<td><strong>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</strong> Sherman Alexie</td>
<td>“Alexie's first young adult novel is a semiautobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw… He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Meeting his old classmates on the court, Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community, identity, and tribe.” (From Amazon.com)</td>
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<td><strong>The Iliad</strong> Homer</td>
<td>Homer’s classic Epic that tells of the Trojan War and the battle of wills between Achilles and king Agamemnon. A seminal read for those who enjoy Greek mythology</td>
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| **The Alchemist**  
Paulo Coelho | “This charming, simple and well-written allegory tells of a boy, Santiago, who has the imagination and courage to follow his ‘Personal Legend.’ Santiago finds fairy godfathers at many turns who help him learn to keep up his courage, and to read omens and his own heart. The book's inspirational message follow your heart and do your own thing is oblique enough, to allow readers to interpret it in any way they choose, with whatever degree and form of spirituality one adheres to.” (From Publisher’s Weekly) |
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| **Into Thin Air**  
Jon Krakauer | “The author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived.” (From Amazon.com) |
| **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**  
Mark Haddon | “Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods and screams when he is touched. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him, for he lacks the intuitive “theory of mind” by which most of us sense what's going on in other people's heads. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer.” (From Publisher’s Weekly) |
| **All the Pretty Horses**  
Cormac McCarthy | “[All the Pretty Horses] is the tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where dreams are paid for in blood. Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction.” (From Amazon.com) |
| **The Poisonwood Bible**  
Barbara Kingsolver | “*The Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.” (From Amazon.com) |
**Summer Library Program**

To help you prepare for high school and continue your reading for enjoyment throughout the summer, we are opening the library on the Ninth Grade Center once a week for 2 hours!

**WHO:** Any student that will be enrolled in MHS for the 2012-13 school year

**WHEN:** Tuesdays, 10:00a.m.-12:00noon

- June 12, 19, 26 – July 11, 18, 25 – August 1, 8

**WHERE:** Ninth Grade Campus Library

**WHY:** For FUN!!!!

**Remember:**

- It is open for only 2 hours; we will close promptly at 12:00. Your ride should be here to pick you up then.
- This is for reading and checking out books. No computer use available.
- Must not owe any fines to any library (MJHS, NGC, & MHS) in order to check out books for the summer.