

Somerset Academy High School

Summer Reading Selections

FOR ENTERING 2010-2011 FRESHMEN (9TH GRADE)

Read the Required Reading novel and two other novels from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your other two novels, you must complete a MyAccess essay. Final submissions will be on Friday of the first week of school.

Required Reading: Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Choose two novels from the list below:

The Catcher in the Rye, J. D. Salinger

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent, Julia Alvarez

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

The Invisible Man, H.G. Wells

The King Must Die, Mary Renault

To Sir with Love, E.R. Braithwaite

Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

1984, George Orwell

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Summer Reading Selections

FOR INCOMING 2010-2011 SOPHOMORES (10TH GRADE)

Read the Required Reading novel and two other novels from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your other two novels, you must complete a MyAccess essay. Final submissions will be on Friday of the first week of school.

Required Reading: Oedipus the King by Sophocles

Choose two novels from the list below:

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe

Puddinhead Wilson, Mark Twain

Beloved, Toni Morrison

Invisible Cities, Italo Calvino

Kaffir Boy, Mark Mathabane

Born Confused, Tanuja Desai Hidier

Medea, Euripides

Agamemnon, Aeschylus

Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood, Befamin Alire Saenz

The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros

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Summer Reading Selections

FOR INCOMING 2010-2011 JUNIORS (11TH GRADE)

Read the Required Reading novel and two other novels from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your other two novels, you must complete a MyAccess essay. Final submissions will be on Friday of the first week of school.

Required Reading: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Choose two novels from the list below:

Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

Black Like Me, John Howard Griffin

The Sun Also Rises, Hemingway

Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom

Breakfast at Tiffany's, Truman Capote

Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

Up from Slavery: An Autobiography, Booker T. Washington

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Malcolm X (with assistance from Alex Haley)

Antigone, Sophocles

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Summer Reading Selections

FOR INCOMING 2010-2011 SENIORS (12TH GRADE)

Read the Required Reading novel and two other novels from the list. On the first week of school, you will have an exam on the required reading. For your other two novels, you must complete a MyAccess essay. Final submissions will be on Friday of the first week of school.

Required Reading: The Good Earth, Pearl Buck

Choose two novels from the list below:

Macbeth, William Shakespeare

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

The Inferno, Dante Alighieri

Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens

The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho

Life of Pi, Yann Martel

The Iliad, Homer

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

Required Summer Assignments:

I. For the Required Reading, you will be required to take an exam during the first week of school. Make sure you have read the novel in its entirety and be able to respond to questions relating to plot, characters, setting, conflict, resolution, etc.

II. For the other two novels of your choice, you are to complete a MyAccess essay for each novel.

For one of your novels, you must write an essay on the following topic:

Personal Response to Literature

Personal response to a book can include reactions to events, characters, symbols, themes, questions about situations, or some aspect which interests you or has meaning to you. A personal response is not a plot summary, character sketch, or explanation of a literary element. Can you personally relate to any events in a book you have recently read? Does an event or character stand out as noteworthy?

In a letter to your teacher, write a personal response to a book you have recently read. Quote passages from the work to support your response.

As you write, remember your letter will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
- support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes.
- organize your letter in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
- edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

Use any of the tools available to you, such as the [Checklist](#), [Spellchecker](#), or [Graphic Organizer](#).

Your second essay should be on the following prompt:

Analysis of a Literary Character

We understand characters in literature by paying attention to what they say, what they do, and how other characters react to them. The author of a novel will help us understand a character by describing how that character reacts in certain situations. Select a character from a novel you have read in class and analyze that character's personality. What adjectives would you choose to describe the character? What information and evidence from the novel supports the use of those adjectives?

In a multi-paragraph essay, use adjectives to analyze a character from one of the novels you have read in class. Use quotations, details, and examples from the novel to support your selection of adjectives.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
- support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes.
- organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.

- edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

Directions for MyAccess:

1. In order to write and submit your essays, you must go to www.myaccess.com
2. Your username is your first name followed by student number (no spaces)
3. Your password is 999 your last name (no spaces).
4. Once you are logged in, go to Assignments, and begin writing your essay.
5. You will have unlimited submissions until the day of the deadline.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms. Vazquez at mivazquez@somersetacademy.com.

If you do not have a MyAccess account or are unable to login, you must complete your essays as Word documents.

