



**Montgomery Township School District**  
**Skillman, New Jersey**

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A large, stylized graphic of an open book with a green cover, serving as a background for the title text.

# **Montgomery High School Summer Reading Program**

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**Overview Grades 9-12**

## **Questions?**

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# Montgomery High School

## Summer Reading Program Overview

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### Grades 9-12

#### I. RATIONALE

To help students develop a life-long love of reading

#### II. WHAT TO EXPECT IN SEPTEMBER

*All summer reading must be completed by the first day of school.*

A Book Club/Literature Circle conversation will take place during the first week of school in September in each English class. Following this, teachers will integrate the required summer reading text(s) into the first marking period of the year. Classroom instruction will require students to use their summer reading text(s) as reference.

**Note:** All students **MUST** have a copy—new, used or borrowed—of the required text(s) for use in the classroom and it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that notes be taken while reading for use during classroom discussion.

#### III. RESOURCES

This *MHS SUMMER READING PROGRAM* outline, as well as suggested reading lists for students in grades 9-12 looking for additional (*optional*) reading over the summer break, can be accessed by visiting the MHS English Department web page at <http://montgomerytsd.schoolwires.com/645938927141243/site/default.asp> and clicking on the *Summer Reading Requirements* tab at the left of the page.

#### IV. REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND GUIDES FOR NOTETAKING\*

**\*Please note:** Both the 9th Grade Honors and 12th Grade Honors summer reading texts are epic poems and can potentially be challenging to read. To help alleviate student stress, guiding questions and/or themes have been provided to help focus note taking while reading these two selections.

#### GRADE 9

##### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep

1-*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*—Mark Haddon

##### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

1-Excerpts from *The Odyssey*—Robert Fagles (translator); Required Sections: **Books 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16, 19, 21-23**

Consider the following questions while reading, and take notes so that you will be able to support your main points with examples from the text:

1. What purpose does Book 1 serve? What do we learn?
2. Discuss the women in *The Odyssey*. What roles do women play and how do you think they represent the women of ancient Greece?
3. Discuss the men in *The Odyssey*. What role do they play? Odysseus and his men are seasoned warriors and they've seen much of death and destruction. Why do you think they so often wail, cry, and lament their various misfortunes?
4. Why do you suppose the gods do not send Odysseus directly home? What are the gods' motives?
5. Discuss the themes of pride and honor. Where do we see these themes displayed? How do these characteristics affect the plot?? Are these traits strengths or weaknesses?
6. A major idea in *The Odyssey* is reciprocity: people getting what they deserve. Explain how this affects the main characters: Odysseus, Penelope, Telemachus. What theme do you suppose Homer is presenting through the idea of reciprocity?

## REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND GUIDES FOR NOTETAKING (*CONTINUED*)

### GRADE 10

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep

1-*The Glass Castle: A Memoir*—Jeannette Walls

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

1-*The Catcher in the Rye*—J.D. Salinger

### GRADE 11

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep

1-*Of Mice and Men*—John Steinbeck

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

1- *Of Mice and Men*—John Steinbeck

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Placement

1-*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—Mark Twain

2-*Nickel and Dimed*—Barbara Ehrenreich

### GRADE 12

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade College Prep

1-*Song for Night*—Chris Albani

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

1-Excerpts from *The Iliad*—Robert Fagles (translator); Required sections: **Books 1-3, 6, 9, 15-24**. Themes to follow in your notes while reading (*be sure to note page and line numbers*):

1. The interaction between fate and free will
2. Pride
3. Military glory versus family life
4. The role of remembrance and commemoration
5. Mortality
6. The interaction between mortals and gods
7. Compassion and forgiveness
8. The pursuit of glory
9. The interactions between the gods and goddesses
10. The importance of ritual and reverence of the gods

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Placement

1-*Oedipus the King*—Sophocles

2-*All My Sons*—Arthur Miller (Included in *Six Great Modern Plays*—ISBN #0-440-37984-9)

3- Research and take notes on Aristotle's *Poetics*, the nature of tragedy, and the concept of the tragic hero. You will be able to find this kind of information in your local library or by doing research on the Internet. This information will be essential to our studies in the first quarter. **\*\*DO NOT** print a copy of the entire text of the book for your A.P. teacher.