

MSA Upper School & Comm Arts Summer Reading - 2016

1. WHICH BOOK(s) should I read?

Please look closely at the pages that follow. You will see that certain books are for certain grades.

If you are going to be in the ninth grade, we call you a "Rising 9th grader."

2. WHEN should I read my book(s)? Choose a plan from the list below

Whenever you read - once you start - KEEP GOING!

- Some successful students read their selections early in summer, and then use online review services in August to help recall the details. This plan works well, but not without the review piece.
- Other students buy their books and/or CD's early to be sure that they have them. They keep track of their purchases, then do their reading at the end of the summer to be fresh with details. This plan works well for them.
- Some students read a chapter - then read a summary of it online - to be sure they understand fully. This plan works well and it is not cheating (*unless you skip reading the actual book!*)
- Some students wait until the last minute to locate the book, rush to buy it, pay extra shipping, and try to read the book in two days. Some look for book summaries online and try to 'fake it.' They all feel stressed, and start out the year feeling like they are already 'messing up.' This strategy does not work well.

Should I write A REPORT OF SOME KIND?

Maybe. Please look at the instructions that apply to your grade level.

If it doesn't say to write a report, what then? How will we use SUMMER READING? IN CLASS

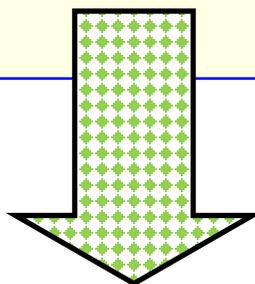
Your teacher will organize activities around the book when we return to school. The assigned grade (s) are usually worth **10% of the fall semester average**.

1. Perhaps he/she will require that students write a report together, in which students provide their own details from the book.
2. There may be a comprehension quiz.
3. Sometimes lively discussions lead to teams proving a thesis by using specific examples from the book.

We monitor email during summer months, should you have a question. Sometimes, expect 24-48 hours before you may get a response (we may be at the beach)!

We hope you enjoy your book (s)!

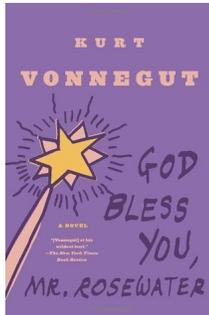
Shilpee Kathuria skathuria@millsprings.org All Rising Seniors
Nellie Jackson njackson@millsprings.org All Rising Juniors
Eric Khong ekhong@millsprings.org Rising Freshmen and Rising Sophomores
Taniah Jones tjones@millsprings.org Communication Arts



Rising Seniors, Honors –3 Books

God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater

Kurt Vonnegut
Fiction



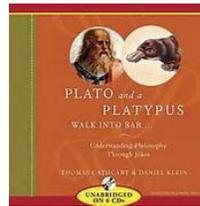
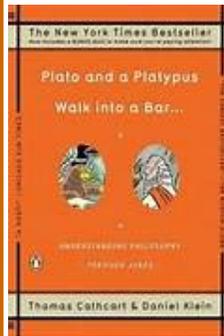
Put together the following essay for this novel:

1. Conduct a little research on Kurt Vonnegut's biographical background and compile some facts of note and interest into a paragraph. (Intro)
2. Write a one-page summary of the novel. (Summary)
3. Write a one-page discussion comparing Eliot's conception of America's economic corruption with our current view. Are the views similar or different? (Analysis)

Due by second week of school.

Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar

Tom Cathcart & Daniel Klein
Nonfiction, Philosophy, Jokes

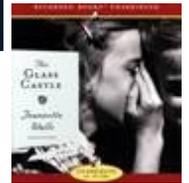
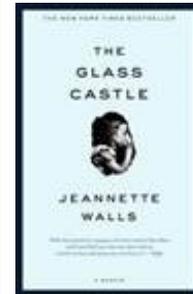


Please find **materials in your email** from Shilpee by late May/ early June. Complete them when enjoying the first four chapters.

Due by Friday of first week of school.

The Glass Castle

Jeannette Walls
Nonfiction, Memoir



Please see notes below.

Rising Seniors, General classes – 2 Books

The Art of Racing in the Rain

Garth Stein
Fiction

The Art of Racing in the Rain— Consider listening on CD or audiobook, with the whole family. Last year's seniors loved this book!

Choose your option:

1. Look for email messages for **materials to complete on this book (late May or early June)** during the summer **OR**
2. You may choose to take an **objective test (multiple choice)** and one short essay when we return in August. YOU should arrange to take the test during Values by the end of the second week.

The Glass Castle

Jeannette Walls
Nonfiction, Memoir



The Glass Castle is NOT fantasy fiction. It is an autobiographical book written by a TV journalist.

We will have a 30 question **comprehension quiz** on important details in the book during your **second class period**. I do not believe in trick questions or tiny detail questions. Each question is about a significant event.

During the **next two classes**, we will discuss the book and we will write an **essay AS A GROUP** using the projector, so that you may learn what I expect from you when writing essays.

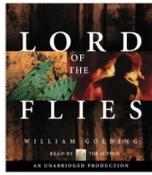
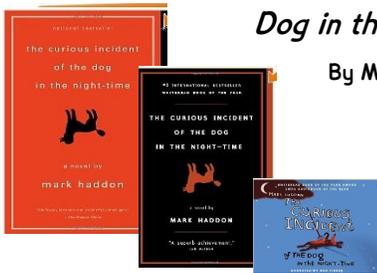
Read the book in late July, so you remember details.

Rising Juniors—**HONORS**—2 Books

(New 11th graders)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

By Mark Haddon

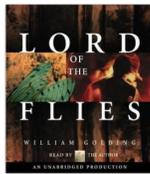


Lord of the Flies

By William Golding

Rising Juniors—**General** Classes

1 Book (New 11th graders)



Lord of the Flies

By William Golding

Summer Reading Book Review for Juniors Only

NOTE: You will use these notes to write essays the first two weeks of school. Bring your **books** and completed **forms** to class.

Student Name:

Date:

Name of Book:

Author:

Setting: Where does the book take place?

Characters: List 2 and describe each.

- 1.
- 2.

Plot: List 5 important events in the story.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Point of View: Who tells the story?

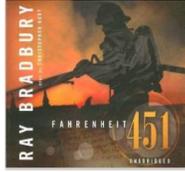
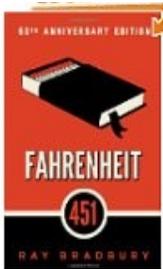
Theme: What main point is the author trying to make?

Opinion: Would you recommend this book to your peers to read? Why or Why not?

Rising Sophomores—Honors—2 Books (New 10th graders)

Fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury



NOTE: You will use these notes to write an essay the first two weeks of school. Bring your book and completed form to class.

Student Name:

Date:

Name of Book:

Author:

Setting: Where does the book take place?

Characters: List 2 and describe each in complete sentences.

- 1.
- 2.

Plot: List 5 important events in the story.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

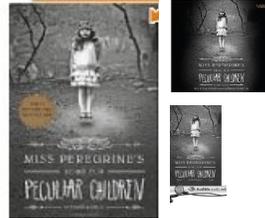
Point of View: Who tells the story?

Theme: What main point is the author trying to make?

Opinion: Would you recommend this book to your peers to read? Why or Why not?

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

by Ransom Riggs



Tool: Use "How to Write a Short Story" from eHow.com

NOTE: If you use an audio version, be sure to have a book too, since the many photographs are important to the story

Creative writing assignment

Find at least **five old photos** that you feel are interesting and inspiring. Then, write a short story that includes your photos, just as Riggs did in his book. The photos can be from your family or pictures you find online.

You can write a **sequel** or a totally **fresh story line**, but you must use at least one character from the story.

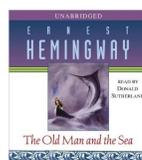
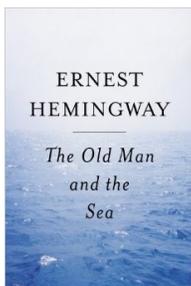
Tape your pictures to your pages, or if they are digital, just insert them into your story at the proper place.

Minimum: 2 – 5 pages, double space, 12-point font.

Rising Sophomores—General classes—1 Book (New 10th graders)

The Old Man and the Sea

by Ernest Hemingway



NOTE: You will use these notes to write an essay the first two weeks of school. Bring your book and completed form to class.

Student Name:

Date:

Name of Book:

Author:

Setting: Where does the book take place?

Characters: List 2 and describe each.

- 1.
- 2.

Plot: List 5 important events in the story.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Point of View: Who tells the story?

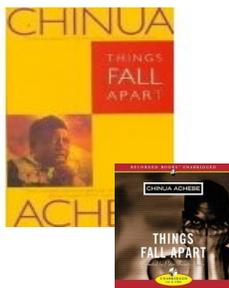
Theme: What main point is the author trying to make?

Opinion: Would you recommend this book to your peers to read? Why or Why not?

Rising Freshmen Honors – 2 Books (New 9th graders)

Things Fall Apart

By Chinua Achebe



HONORS CLASS—
Students will receive email in June regarding the Honors Roster

Things Fall Apart Activity: Short Answer Essay Prompts

Students will write a well-developed and coherent paragraph for **each** of the following questions:

1. How does Achebe illustrate the African culture?
2. List and describe the characteristics of Achebe's hero- what qualities does a hero need to have in Achebe's Africa?
3. What cultural stereotypes do you think Achebe is trying to erase? What cultural stereotypes do you think he is validating?

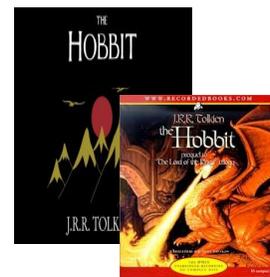
Paragraph Checklist- Each of your paragraphs should have the following:

- An introductory statement
- At least three-four examples from the text directly
- A concluding statement
- Transitions from idea to idea
- At least 5-10 complete and interesting sentences

Your teacher will be collecting these three paragraphs at the beginning of the school year: also, be prepared to engage in activities and/ or a test regarding the material.

The Hobbit

By J.R.R. Tolkien

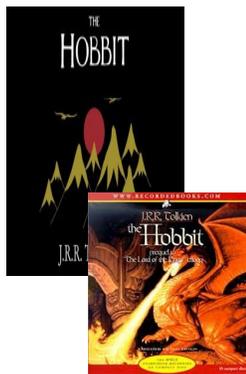


Please follow directions indicated below.

Rising Freshmen—General Classes—1 Book (Rising 9th grade)

The Hobbit

By J.R.R. Tolkien



The Hobbit Activity:

Character Development Journal

Students will choose a character to follow in "The Hobbit" to develop a chronological Character Development Journal using MS Word. The student will highlight mentions/passages in their books with their chosen character and discuss each of these mentions or passages.

Directions: Each journal entry should include:

1. Page Number of the mention/ passage
2. The following questions typed:
 - What is the character doing?
 - How is the character described or illuminated?
 - How is this character important to the story?
3. Answers to the questions in complete sentences.

Some character suggestions include:

- Bilbo Baggins, the winning hero
- Gandalf, the wise wizard
- Thorin Oakenshield, a dwarf leader
- Gollum, an obsessive "creature"
- Smaug, the fearsome dragon

Also, as long as the journal is in a readable font, please, please, please feel free to add a cover, graphics or images— and have fun with it! Your teacher will collect these journals at the beginning of the school year, and use them to prepare an activity on "The Hobbit."

The journal should be double-spaced, with a minimum of 15 entries and 5 pages.