MRHS English Department **Summer Reading Expectations** (Honors 9 & 10/AP Comp & Lit12th)

“*The unexamined life is not worth living…” -Socrates*

Dear future Honors/AP student:

The MRHS English department salutes you for choosing to enter our upper-level Honors/AP curriculum!

We take this commitment to excellence seriously and look forward to challenging you in the school year to come. One of the strongest ways you, as a student, can prepare for the rigor of our Honors/AP instruction is to read over the summer.

A life-long pursuit of reading and knowledge is a journey—one, which we suspect, you have already begun. Through reading, you will gain insights and make connections, which will not only help you with the AP/Honors curriculum, but will help you to better understand yourself and the world you live in.

Reading will make you a wiser, well-rounded, and more interesting person.

Below are specific reading lists geared for each Honors/AP grade level. Our expectation for you as a student is that you will read many books over the summer. Engaging with literature is one of the best ways to be successful in our AP/Honors classes and to prepare on your own for the AP exams. We encourage students to read between 2 and 5 books from the suggested list for their specific grade level. The books have been chosen based on high engagement and/or as classic Western Canon literature. Both kinds will benefit your reading comprehension, flow, vocabulary, and ability to recognize allusions as well as make connections between texts.

**Directions: None of this is required, simply suggested, however Honors/AP teachers may assign a reading task the first week of school that will connect in some way to the reading list for your grade level (you will be given time in August to complete such reading). Teachers may also offer extra credit for reading. We encourage you to annotate, journal, reflect, and connect to the literature in whatever way has worked for you in the past so you will have the novels fresh in your mind upon your return to school in August.**

“We read to know that we are not alone.” -C.S. Lewis

“Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them.”- Lemony Snicket

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” –Dr. Seuss

“You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” –Ray Bradbury

“If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.” –Stephen King

“I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.” -Groucho Marx

**Have a great summer, relax, sleep, enjoy nature, spend time with family & friends, and read!**

**\*Go to Amazon.com for novel summaries and reader reviews to assist with your choices. All books on the list can be found at public libraries, used book stores, free downloads, or on Amazon.com for pennies on the dollar.**

**9th Grade Honors**

*The Book Thief—Markus Zusak*

*The Lord of the Rings—JRR Tolkien*

*Ender’s Game—Orson Scott Card*

*The Alchemist—Paulo Coelho*

*When the Legends Die—*Borland

*The Battle of Jericho—*Draper

*The Power of One—*Bryce Courtenay

*Flowers for Algernon—*Keyes

*A Lesson Before Dying—*Gaines

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—

Mark Twain

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*—Sherman Alexie

\*The following two choices were written by Mesa Ridge HS staff members

The Toymaker Trilogy—M. Porter Dyer (Available on Kindle for .99)

Jesus Christ Super Teen Trilogy—MacEnulty

(Available on Kindle only)

**10th Grade**

*The Kite Runner*—Khaled Hosseini

*Hyperion*—Dan Simmons

*Never Let Me Go*–Ishiguro Kazuo

*The Catcher in the Rye* –J. D. Salinger

*The Great Gatsby*—F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Scarlet Letter*—Hawthorne

*The Joy Luck Club*—Amy Tan

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their*

*Accents*—Julia Alvarez

*The Secret Life of Bees*—Sue Monk

Kidd

*The Color Purple*—Alice Walker

*Always Running*—Luis Rodriguez

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Jesus Christ Super Teen Trilogy—MacEnulty

(Available on Kindle only)

**12th Grade AP Comp and Lit**

* *The Razor’s Edge*, W. Somerset Maugham
* Hosseini—*A Thousand Splendid Suns*
* *Atonement*—Ian McEwan
* Paul Thoroux – *The Mosquito Coast*
* Mark Haddock – *The Curious Incident*

*of the Dog in the Nighttime*

* *Handmaid’s Tale—*Margaret Atwood
* *The Road—*Cormac McCarthy
* *Watership Down*—Richard

Adams

* *For Whom the Bell Tolls*— Ernest Hemingway
* *Kafka on the Shore*— Haruki Murakami
* *Catch 22*—Joseph Heller
* Ayn Rand – *The Fountainhead*
* Yann Martel – *Life of Pi*
* *The Things They Carried*—Tim O’Brien

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