



Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
Summer Reading Assignment
English Department

COURSE: English 1 (On-Level and Honors)

TEACHER NAMES:

Ms. Kathy Judge: kjudge@bmchs.org

Ms. Rebecca Savuto: rsavuto@bmchs.org

Ms. Susan Wagner: swagner@bmchs.org

REQUIRED READING: Procure and read the following text listed below. You can find copies at a local library or bookstore, or online. **Students will need either a physical or digital copy of the novel for class.**

- *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham

PLEASE NOTE:

** Young Adult contemporary novels and historical fiction contain mature content. Students, please approach this text with a sense of decorum and seriousness.*

ASSIGNMENT:

Part 1. Verification

Part 2. Letter of Introduction

Part 3. Reading Photo

Part 4. Read *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham

DUE DATE: Part 1-3 are due and will be collected at the beginning of your first day of class, following freshmen bootcamp.

- Printed and signed copy of the Verification form
- Handwritten letter
- Printed Joy picture
- Bring your copy of *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham to class



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Part 1: Verification

Please print this out and bring it to class on the first day.

Welcome to Freshman English! Below you will find the instructions and scoring rubrics for your summer reading assignments. Read carefully and follow *all* instructions. If you have any questions, email Ms. Wagner (swagner@bmchs.org).

I verify that _____
PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME
has completed his/her summer reading and has followed all instructions included in this packet.

PLEASE INITIAL BELOW

_____ I am aware that this work will receive a grade based on the criteria included in this packet.

_____ I am aware that there will be an in-class comprehension quiz the first week of school that assesses students' basic understanding of the assigned novel, *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham.

_____ I am aware that the first unit of the semester will reflect content from the assigned reading. Students will engage in a variety of activities that include writing assignments, discussions, and a unit test created to develop reading and writing skills needed for success.

_____ I am aware that each student will need either a physical or digital copy of the book for class during the first three weeks of school. Books can be borrowed, rented, or purchased.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Part 2: Letter of Introduction

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: 50 points

This letter will help your teacher

- better understand who you are as a person and as a student.
- evaluate your ability to follow directions.
- evaluate your writing and grammar skills.

INSTRUCTIONS: Using a **dark BLUE or BLACK pen**, **handwrite** a letter to your teacher where you address the following ideas and questions in multiple paragraphs.

The Letter of Introduction will be assessed on the following instructions and criteria. Illegible writing will not earn points.

Formatting: Block Letter Format (5 points)

See **Attachment 1** below for an example.

- Include the date at the top; left aligned
- Begin with a greeting that includes the name of the reader. **Your class schedule will indicate who your teacher is.**
- Separate paragraphs for the body of the letter using block formatting.
 - [Writing Personal Letters](#)
 - [Block Letter Format](#)
- Compose a minimum of 3-5 sentences per paragraph
- Include a closing salutation at the end of the letter
- Include your signature and print your first and last name

Introduction Paragraph: Who You Are + Where You're From (10 points)

- Introduce yourself.
- Identify which school you attended before Bishop McGuinness.
- Explain the personal history of your name.

Body Paragraph 1: Family Dynamics (10 points)

- Introduce your family members, including pets.
- Identify and describe the names, ages, and personalities of your family members.
- Describe your family dynamics - the impact of the way your family interacts with one another.
- Explain what makes your family interesting or different.



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Body Paragraph 2: Interests and Hobbies (10 points)

- Explain who you are as a person.
- Identify what you like to do for fun in your free time.
- Describe any hobbies or interests.

Body Paragraph 3: Book Love (10 points)

- Describe how frequently you read for pleasure. Consider both summer and the school year.
- Describe the environment in which you read, both assigned and for pleasure.
- Identify and correctly punctuate the title and author of your favorite book of all time. This could be a book you read for school or for pleasure.
- Explain why the book is your favorite.

Editing and Revising (5 points)

- Handwritten legibly in **dark BLUE or BLACK** ink
- Uses complete sentences
- Uses appropriate grammar and writing mechanics to the best of your ability
- Demonstrates effort and thoughtful responses



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Attachment 1

August 1, 2023

Dear Scholars,

Welcome Freshmen! I am so excited to meet you and join you on your journey as you start this new chapter in your life: High school. I want to introduce myself – my name is Mrs. Rebecca Savuto. I am originally from California, and before teaching at Bishop McGuinness I worked at a high school in Northern California outside of Travis Air Force Base. My name has an interesting story: my parents were torn between Melissa and Rebecca. My dad wanted to name me Rebecca; my mom wanted to name me Melissa. They drew cards to select the winning name, and my dad won. My last name, Savuto, originates from the Savuto river within the Savuto valley in Calabria, a region in Southern Italy.

My family is small; I live with my husband and my dog. My husband is a microbiologist with an outgoing personality. Together, we love listening to our vinyl record collection and being outdoors as much as our allergies will allow. Lucy, my Boston terrier, is a seven-year-old life of the party. She enjoys chasing squirrels, jumping after balloons, and burrowing under blankets. My family has created an easy-going dynamic. Communication is key in my household, which creates an understanding and welcoming environment. An interesting fact about my family is that we do not own a television.

In addition to listening to vinyl, outside of the classroom I enjoy reading, hiking, camping, and staying active. I have dabbled in a myriad of competitive sports; in my younger days I competed in gymnastics, in high school I played on my school's volleyball team and a traveling club volleyball team, in college I competed in MMA tournaments, and as an adult I rowed competitively. I have also completed Yoga Teacher Training classes and have taught at local yoga studios. Outside of teaching, I am also active within the McGuinness community: I am the Junior class co-sponsor, National Honors Society co-sponsor, and Irish Outreach co-sponsor. I encourage you to explore all the activities, sports, and clubs we offer here at McGuinness and find an activity that can bring you joy outside of the classroom.

I try to read a little bit everyday, though I find myself finishing more books during the summer than I do during the school year. My reading environment impacts how focused I am while reading. I like to wake up and read on my couch in the quiet of the morning while drinking my coffee. Sometimes I also like to read right before bed to quiet my mind. I need a quiet, comfortable space, free from my phone or computer in order to immerse myself into my book. My favorite novels are usually fantasy (maybe sprinkled with some supernatural elements). My ultimate favorite series is The Lord of the Rings trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien. I love how adventure and fantasy novels can whisk me away from my day-to-day life and I can live vicariously through the characters' adventures. Plus, it has walking and talking trees!

I can't wait to meet each of you. Welcome to Bishop McGuinness. You belong here!

Warmest regards,

Mrs. Savuto

Mrs. Savuto



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Part 3: Reading Photo

DIRECTIONS: Take a picture of yourself reading *Dreamland Burning*. Make sure the image includes a clear visual of your face (no hat, hood, sunglasses, mask) and of your book. Print out the picture on paper or photo paper, either 4x6 or 5x7, and bring it with you to class on the first day of school. Write your first and last name on the back of your picture.

ASSESSMENT: 25 points

This is a completion grade; photos must meet *all* of the following criteria to earn full credit.

- 4x6 or 5x7 in size
- Printed before you come to class on the first day of school
- Clear image of face
 - No hat, hood, or sunglasses
- First and last name written on back
 - Printed legibly
 - Capitalized appropriately

Part 4: Summer Reading

All incoming ninth grade students will read *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham. Students come to McGuinness from a variety of schools and with a range of reading experiences; beginning ninth grade by reading the same novel gives us the opportunity to come together as a community by taking, thinking, and writing about this shared text.

DIRECTIONS: Read *Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham. You are expected to have completed the book prior to the first day of school.

- Be prepared to take a reading comprehension quiz during the first week of school.
- Be prepared to answer questions, write responses, and discuss the book during the first unit of the school year.
- Be prepared to bring a copy of the book to class for the first three weeks of school.



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The following is a breakdown of pages to read each week. Of course, you can read at a pace that works well for you; however, working a little bit at a time instead of procrastinating until the last week or weekend of summer makes reading manageable rather than stressful.

<i>Dreamland Burning</i> by Jennifer Latham						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Pages 1-53	Pages 54-104	Pages 105-158	Pages 159-207	Pages 209-262	Pages 263-310	Pages 311-365