

**Pikesville High School  
Summer Reading  
AP Language and AP Literature  
2011 - 2012 School Year**

Advanced Placement courses at Pikesville High School are designed to prepare students for college-level courses. You are expected to read a wide variety of literature and non-fiction in both the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and to analyze carefully what you read.

In preparation for your English course, you should read widely throughout the summer. You **will be** assessed on these books within the first month of school. The books chosen reflect the types of books you will read all year long. All titles are available in the public library. If you cannot find a copy, contact the school for assistance.

**AP English 11**

While students in AP 11 will read selected classics of American fiction throughout the year, they will focus primarily on nonfiction writing. Argument and persuasion will be key course elements and will be the starting point of the year.

A. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain: A classic of American literature, this novel offers both a riveting story and a compelling argument for freedom.

B. Choose one of the following nonfiction books, each of which presents a strong central argument:

- ✧ *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin: a powerful adventure story that offers a gentle argument for peace in the volatile, rugged mountains of Afghanistan.
- ✧ *Moneyball* by Michael Lewis: compelling portrait of Oakland A's general manager and master recruiter Billie Bean, who uses economics and statistics to value players' worth.
- ✧ *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing up in the Other America* by Alex Kotlowitz: A harrowing account of two boys who grew up in inner city Chicago.

**AP English 12**

Students in AP English 12 will engage in active, close-reading of a wide variety of literature from various periods and genres and will use this literature as the basis for in-depth discussion, analysis, and writing. In preparation for the course read **both** books listed below.

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin: A nineteenth century classic novel that was scorned by the people of the Victorian conservative South where women were still the property of their husbands.

*The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood: A twenty-first century novel that opens with the simple words "Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge."

- Use a journal, sticky notes, or other organizing method to make note of literary elements of the novels such as style, word choice, voice, characterization, etc. Also, note questions and ideas that come to mind as you read.

**Questions about summer reading should be directed to Mr. Hill, English department chair, at [ghill@bcps.org](mailto:ghill@bcps.org).**