

Summer Reading 2011-2012 Pikesville High School

You are encouraged to read **three or more** books from either side of this paper in anticipation of the start of school. Most of these books are available in the public library.

Students enrolled in AP Language and AP Literature will receive a separate summer reading assignment.

Why summer reading?

- Summer reading is a valuable way to improve vocabulary.
- Reading daily improves academic concentration.
- Reading daily helps students perform better on the SAT critical reading and writing sections.
- Reading daily improves knowledge of the world.
- Many of these works are read in the BCPS curriculum throughout the year; therefore, reading them will help you prepare for the school year.

How will you be assessed?

Toward the end of September, **all sections** of English classes will write an SAT essay. The writing sections of the SAT begins with an argument essay, and writers of the essay are encouraged to use their readings, observations, and experiences. As part of your response, you will be writing about one of the books you read. The chart below features an important title that will be read or discussed during the school year. To prepare for the school year, students are encouraged to read the books in expectation for the school year.

Grade 9 G/T:

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Grade 9 H/S:

The Contender, Robert Lipsyte

Grade 10 G/T:

Siddhartha, Herman Hesse

Grade 10:

Animal Farm, George Orwell

Grade 11:

A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines

Grade 12

Grendel, John Gardner

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The American Library Association also recommends these titles:

History:

- *Forgotten Fire: A Novel*, Adam Bagdasarian
- *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Diamond, Jared
- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Diaz, Junot
- *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*, Egan, Timothy.
- *The Complete Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi.

Humanities:

- *Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!* Carmen Bernier-Grand
- *The Power of Myth*, Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers
- *Pillars of the Earth*, Ken Follett
- *Water for Elephants: A Novel* Sara Gruen.
- *Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon—And the Journey of a Generation*, Sheila Weller

Social Sciences:

- *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, , Ishmael Beah
- *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, Malcolm Gladwell
- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio
- *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*, Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
- *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*, Jeannette Walls

Science and Math:

- *The Taste of Sweet: Our Complicated Love Affair With Our Favorite Treats*, Joanne Chen
- *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*, Tim Flannery
- *Out of Orbit: The Incredible True Story of Three Astronauts Who Were Hundreds of Miles Above Earth When They Lost Their Ride Home*, Chris Jones
- *The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body*, David Macaulay
- *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, Mary Roach