

# **Martha's Vineyard Regional High School**

## **English Department**

### **Summer Reading Guidelines 2023**

*Summer reading assignments serve as a way for students to not only maintain their skills as readers, but also to foster inquiry and spur imagination. The English teachers at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School want students to remain intellectually engaged throughout the summer so that they are prepared to begin their English courses primed and ready for the rigor such courses demand. The assignment(s) students will need to complete on the reading further serve as a diagnostic tool whereby teachers can assess students' skill at the outset of the course. The English Department at MVRHS encourages students at all levels and abilities to read over the summer; however, students choosing to take honors or Advanced Placement courses are required to successfully complete summer reading to ensure their placement in the course.*

### **General Requirements and Policies:**

- 1) Students enrolled in an honors or Advanced Placement level course (including honors-level electives taken for English credit) will be required to read at least one book before entering the course in September.
- 2) Students may be required to complete written work based on their reading before entering the course.
- 3) Students will be required to complete at least one assignment based on this book upon entering the course in the fall. This assignment could be a test, essay, project, or presentation and will be assigned within the first week of classes.

Failure to complete the summer reading assignment could result in the following\*:

- Course level change.
- No credit given on the assignment, which will negatively affect the first quarter grade.

If a student chooses to move from an Advanced Placement-level course to an honors-level course, the student is still required to complete the honors-level summer reading assignment.

(The teacher may choose to consider work the student completed for the AP course towards the required work for the honors-level course, but it is at the teacher's discretion.)

\*Teachers will always take into account extenuating circumstances that may have prevented a student from completing the required work before determining the appropriate measure that will be taken to address the situation.

### **Recommendations to Students:**

- 1) Communicate with your teacher in a timely manner regarding any questions or concerns you may have about the assignment.
- 2) If you are unsure about whether you want to take the honors, dual-enrollment, or AP level course, familiarize yourself with all assignments. DO NOT assume you can drop down from AP to an honors-level or dual-enrollment class if you have not completed the summer work.

★ 2023 Summer Reading Assignment ★  
Honors 12 and Dual Enrollment Courses

Dear Incoming Senior,

Congratulations on reaching this pivotal milestone in your academic journey! As you prepare to enter your final year of high school, we want to take a moment to encourage you to make reading a priority this summer, and share with you some key beliefs we in the English department hold about the benefits of reading.

As seniors, many of whom are seeking to be prepared for college, you likely already understand that reading is not just a pastime; it's a gateway to knowledge, a catalyst for growth, and a source of inspiration. It expands your vocabulary, sharpens your critical thinking skills, and enhances your ability to focus, and articulate your thoughts. These are invaluable assets as you navigate college applications, engage in class discussions, and prepare for the personal, professional, and global challenges that lie ahead.

Beyond its academic benefits, reading nurtures empathy and broadens perspective. It allows us to walk in the shoes of characters from different backgrounds, eras, and cultures, fostering understanding and compassion. In an increasingly interconnected world, this ability to empathize and appreciate diverse viewpoints is essential.

Moreover, reading stimulates our imagination and ignites creativity. It can take us on adventures to far-off lands, introduce us to extraordinary characters, and present us with thought-provoking ideas. As you embark on your senior year, where critical decision-making awaits, reading will equip you with the ability to think outside the box and envision innovative solutions.

This summer, do your best to carve out time each day to immerse yourself in the pages of captivating books that align with your interests. Explore new genres, challenge yourself with complex texts, and seek out recommendations from trusted sources.

★ Here's your official summer reading assignment:

Prior to the start of school — in addition to reading books for your own pleasure and self-growth — please select **ONE** work of fiction from [this list](#) for a book study. Needless to say, you should choose a book that is not one you have previously read for any reason, and we encourage you to choose a book from the list that interests you. It is up to you to obtain whatever book you choose, though you are not expected to purchase it. If there is some extenuating circumstance that may prevent you from obtaining a book, please let us know as soon as possible. We can help get a book into your hands.

You are required to complete a specific notetaking sheet, linked [here](#), which you should make a digital copy of and plan to submit on the first day of class. Please read the instructions carefully and thoroughly, and follow them exactly to ensure a successful start. Your notes should, of course, consist entirely of your own work/thinking.

We genuinely look forward to hearing about what you've noticed in your reading and the insights you discover. Our expectations are high for next year, and we hope yours are, too!

Have a wonderful summer,

Ms. Hennigan ([khennigan@mvrhs.org](mailto:khennigan@mvrhs.org)) and Ms. Thibodeau ([mthibodeau@mvrhs.org](mailto:mthibodeau@mvrhs.org))