Martha's Vineyard Regional High School English Department Summer Reading Guidelines 2023-24



(Below is a general overview of the English Department's summer reading philosophy and policies; scroll down for the course-specific assignment for AP 12.)

Summer reading assignments serve as a way for students to not only maintain their skills as readers, but also 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:

Summer reading and writing assignments will vary by teacher, but at the very least will meet these basic requirements:

- 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 or multiple essays or articles 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 the reading assignment 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.

*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.

**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 summer reading assignment. (The teacher may choose to count the work the student completed for the AP course to the required work for the honors level course, but it is at the teacher's discretion.)

Recommendations for students:

- 1) Communicate with your teacher regarding any questions or concerns you may have about the assignment and do so in a timely manner. Your future teacher's email address will appear on the summer reading assignment posted to the website.
- 2) If you are unsure about whether you want to take the honors or AP level course, familiarize yourself with both assignments. DO NOT assume you can drop down to an honors level class if you have not completed the summer work for either the AP or honors level.
- 3) Assignments will be posted on the school website by July 1 and some materials will be available at the school for pick up.
- 4) We encourage you to not only read the material you are assigned, but read additional books at your leisure. Websites like goodreads.com offer great book recommendations.
- 5) Remember Jhumpa Lahiri's words, "That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."

Happy travelling, and have a wonderful summer!