

# Martha's Vineyard Regional High School

## English Department

### Summer Reading Guidelines 2023

Page ONE includes a general overview of the summer reading policies; page TWO describes the course-specific assignment for Honors 11; page THREE outlines suggestions for your notes.

*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:

- 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 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.

## MVRHS Honors English 11 Summer Reading Assignment 2023

Please read these instructions carefully and thoroughly. It is crucial that you follow them exactly to start off your time in Honors 11 on a successful path.

As students in Honors English, I expect you are already reading all the time. For that reason, and the fact that it is summer, I want to leave some of the choice of what you read this summer up to you – *within some particular parameters*. The umbrella for the 11 Honors book list choice is “social justice” – there are a range of choices (mostly non-fiction, and some fiction) on a variety of subjects. You must read a book from the provided list and from that list only (if you feel that there is another book under the umbrella topic, please reach out with your idea – you should get approval for that book before you begin reading it for this assignment). Needless to say, you should choose a book that is not one you have read previously for any reason. You are encouraged to research summaries/book reviews of potential choices to ensure that it is a book that interests you – you can find some summaries in the summer reading summary document.

**To reiterate: you must read a book from the provided list and from that list only and it should be a book that you have not already read for any reason (whether a class assignment or on your own).**

The bookstores and libraries on the Island (including the MVRHS library) have copies of books to purchase or borrow. The CLAMS library network of which the Island libraries are a part, also allow you to download books for free onto a Kindle device. **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 me know as soon as possible.

**You will be writing an in-class essay in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> day of class on the book you chose and read.** Your essay will be graded on: your demonstrated understanding of the main ideas/themes/arguments of the book, your ability to use textual evidence (in this case, in the form of paraphrase, at minimum) to support your own ideas, and your general language usage (conventions). **You may not use the book to write this essay, but you may use prepared notes.**

In addition to my expectation that you are regularly and widely reading, my expectation is that you are actively engaging and interacting with the texts you read, which means annotating or taking notes as you read. Some suggested methods for note-taking are a dialectic journal/double-entry notes (for non-fiction), or a note-catcher for major ideas and themes, with examples (for fiction) – though you are not required to use this format. **Your notes will be collected on the first day of class** and should reflect your careful and consistent engagement with the book you chose and should, of course, be entirely your own work/thinking.

See reverse side for more information on your book notes.

Example journal for non-fiction:

<p>In the <b>left column</b>, what you learned or what provoked your thinking as you were reading. <b>Include page numbers.</b></p> <p>Possibilities include:</p> <p>Notes, Quotations, Summaries, Main Ideas, Facts/Concepts/Evidence, Illustrations, Questions, Responses to specific questions, Descriptions</p> <p>The quotations could be: a passage that strikes you in some way, something you question or don't understand, something you agree or disagree with, or something to which you connect.</p> <p><b>(A quotation need not be copied completely – the first phrase will suffice, so long as you can find that passage later, so including page numbers is crucial.)</b></p>	<p>In the <b>right column</b>, write <b>your reaction</b> to that quotation.</p> <p><i>This is where you keep track of what the voice in your head is saying as you read.</i></p> <p>The right hand side should be your thoughts.</p> <p>Possibilities include:</p> <p>Immediate reactions; Reactions after learning something new; Answers to questions; What more you would like to learn; Why you agree or disagree; What you understand or don't understand; Comparisons or contrasts; Connections to other sources or ideas; Your interpretation; Observations, Perspectives.</p> <p>The overriding question to consider as you respond is, <b>“Why is this an important idea, quotation, or question and how does it support the central argument of the text?”</b></p> <p><i>It is NOT summary, but analysis, so length of response to a particular idea, quotation, or question will vary.</i></p>
---	--

Example journal for fiction:

<p>Topic – the big idea topic you have inferred</p>	<p>Page # - page number(s) for the topic and quotation or plot detail. <b>(A quotation need not be copied completely – the first phrase will suffice, so long as you can find that passage later, so including page numbers is crucial.)</b></p>	<p>Explanation – WHY/HOW does this particular quotation or plot detail reflect the “big idea”? Questions to consider: What does it suggest about that big idea? What patterns are you noticing? What connections to other texts are you noticing?</p>
---	--	---

If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment or the course in general, please feel free to ask me.

Happy reading and have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Thibodeau

mthibodeau@mvyps.org