

McGill-Toolen Catholic High School

English Summer Reading for Sophomores – 2010/11

In conjunction with the History department's required reading, all students can expect a writing assessment based on reading Three Cups of Tea.

Required Pre-AP American Literature

Students are required to read *The Road* (\$8.00) by Cormac McCarthy. Notes need to be handwritten using the following guidelines for each novel:

1. Themes (at least three)
2. Character description of the major characters and the contrasts between them
3. Literary devices used in the novel (metaphors, similes, tone, irony, symbolism, etc.)
4. Setting and how it affects the atmosphere of the story
5. Plot (does not need to be very lengthy)

Use quotations from the text to support the above. You should also include questions and comments relevant to each topic listed above. Notes may be used for essay writing the first week of school.

Required Honors American Literature

Students are required to read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd (\$14.00).. Notes need to be handwritten using the following guidelines for each novel:

1. Themes (at least three)
2. Character description of the major characters and the contrasts between them
3. Literary devices used in the novel (metaphors, similes, tone, irony, symbolism, etc.)
4. Setting and how it affects the atmosphere of the story
5. Plot (does not need to be very lengthy)

Use quotations from the text to support the above. You should also include questions and comments relevant to each topic listed above. Notes may be used for essay writing the first week of school.

Recommended Reading for all Levels - Extra Credit Only

There is no required reading for students taking college prep sophomore English or general studies sophomore English. However, students are encouraged to read works of American literature. As a guide, all students can gain extra credit by reading the following selections and completing the reading journal as outlined on the back of this sheet. Maximum extra credit will be 40 points (10 points per journal per quarter).

Ava's Man by Rick Bragg (\$13.00)

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin **(\$8.00)**

A Separate Peace by John Knowles **(\$12.00)**

DIRECTIONS FOR DOUBLE-ENTRY READING JOURNAL

1. Begin each journal with the book's title and author.
1. Write neatly and legibly in blue or black ink.
2. Give one quote from every ten to twenty pages for a total of ten quotes for the book.
3. Divide each page of your journal into a left and right column.
4. In the left column write a direct quote of at least twenty words in length. Include the quote's page number.
5. In the right column identify each of the following for the quote given in the left column:
 1. Explain what the quote means within the context of the surrounding events or ideas.
 2. Explain what exactly interested you about this quote, whether it's the author's characterization, word choice, or ideas.
 3. Explain what this quote made you feel or think about.