

Pre-Course Reading for English Classes at Catonsville High School

All students registered for English classes at CHS are **required** to read the following work(s) of literature for their grade level **prior** to the start of the **2018-19** school year. Students will be assessed on pre-course reading by their English teacher before the end of the first marking period. They may, with teacher approval, earn credit for demonstrating that they have read additional works.

9th Grade

GT- [three texts]

To Kill a Mockingbird (Lee)

AND *Of Mice and Men* (Steinbeck)

AND Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* or *Bulfinch's Mythology* (*only read the Greek/Roman myths, no need to read Norse, etc.)

Honors- [one text]

The Secret Life of Bees (Kidd) or *The Help* (Stockett) or *This One Summer* (graphic novel-Tamaki)

Standard- [one text]

The Secret Life of Bees (Kidd) or *Luna* (Peters) or *Monster* (Myers) or *The Help* (Stockett) or *Black and White* (Volponi) or *The Contender* (Lipsyte) or *The Outsiders* (Hinton) or *Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* (graphic novel-Prince) or *This One Summer* (graphic novel-Tamaki)

10th Grade

GT- [two texts]

Julius Caesar (Shakespeare)

AND *Like Water for Chocolate* (Esquivel) or *The Alchemist* (Coehlo) or *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Rushdie)

Honors/Standard- [one text]

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Kamkwamba/Mealer) or *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Beah) or *The Bite of Mango* (Kamara) or *I am Malala* (Yousafzai) or *Queen of Katwe* (Crothers) or *Persepolis* (graphic novel-Satrap) or *Skim* (graphic novel-Tamaki) or *Maus* (graphic novel-Spiegelman)

11th Grade

AP-[three texts]

Required: *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs. Use the most recent edition, 2017, available at libraries/bookstores. This link provides the outdated online version; it has problematic language and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary: <http://swcta.net/moore/files/2011/08/Thank-You-for-Arguing.pdf>. Take notes on this text; it is foundational, and there will be an assessment.

Choose two: *Assassination Vacation* by Sarah Vowell (American history), *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore (African-American issues), *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario (immigration), *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (true crime), *Friday Night Lights* (sports), *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (adventure), *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (memoir), *This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff (memoir), *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard (memoir), *Between the World and Me* by Ta-nehisi Coates (African-American issues), *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* by Sherman Alexie (Native-American issues), *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick (international)

**It is expected that all students have read *A Narrative of a Life of a Slave* by Frederick Douglass; if you have not, please do so.

OVER FOR MORE LEVELS/GRADES

Honors/Standard- [one text]

The Things They Carried (O'Brien) or *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Angelou) or *March* (Brooks) or *Friday Night Lights* (Bissinger) or *American Born Chinese* (graphic novel-Yang) or *Anya's Ghost* (graphic novel-Broskol) or *March* (any one volume-graphic novel-Lewis, Aydin, Powell)

12th Grade

AP- [two texts]*

Jane Eyre (Bronte)

AND *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* or *Dubliners* (Joyce)

**All students must read *Jane Eyre*, but as an alternative to either of the other two AP 12 titles, students may attend one live performance of a Shakespeare play. This summer, for example, the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company will be performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* outdoors in Ellicott City from 6/22-7/29. Visit their website for details.

For credit, please bring a copy of the program with ticket stub, and a one-page review that briefly summarizes the story and reflects (in your own words) on the staging, performances, and direction.

Honors- [one text]

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Haddon) or *The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood) or *Angela's Ashes* (McCourt)

Standard- [one text]

The Beautiful Struggle (Coates) or *Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx* (Manzano) or *The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir* (Rodriguez/Glatzer) or *Unbroken* (Hillenbrand)