MCA 2026-2027

All students are required to read the assigned book and complete one assignment before they start school.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~Dr. Seuss

The English Department of the Mount Carmel Area School District believes in the importance of summer reading to enrich the lives of students. Hopefully, the summer reading experience will be enjoyable.

Books may be read with friends or family members to enhance your experience and understanding of the text. All students entering Honors English grades 9 through 12 are required to read the assigned book over the summer and complete the summer reading assignment.

MCA English Department Policies for Summer Reading:

1. Choose the assigned novel for the Honors English class that you will be taking.
2. Complete the Summer Reading Form.
3. When you finish reading, complete the Summer Reading Assignment attached to the packet. Complete ONE activity from the suggested list.
4. Bring your Summer Reading Assignment and activity on the first day of school.
5. Students will present their activity in class during the first full week of school.
6. This summer reading project will count as the first grade in your Honors English class. If it is not finished, you will lose points every week it is past due. At the end of the first marking period, you will be given a zero if you do not complete the project.

Summer Reading Activity Choices

Activity 1: Sequence of Action

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of the sequence of action
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Create a timeline of events that take place in the novel
- Target five important events
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author conveyed the series of events.
- Try to include literary elements such as flashback and climax.

Activity 2: Setting

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of setting
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Identify the setting of the novel
- Draw or find pictures to describe both the time and place represented in the novel. Use five adjectives to describe the setting.
- If the setting is an actual place, include a map to show its relationship to other places in the world/country.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author developed the setting. ● Think about how the author develops the setting to convey feelings and set the mood.

Activity 3: Characterization

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of character development
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- Draw an outline of one main character in the novel
- Inside the outline, write/place symbols/pictures to describe the internal elements of his/her character. Think about character traits such as honesty or bravery.
- Outside the outline, write/place symbols/pictures to describe the external elements of his/her character. Think about physical characteristics like the way the character looks or dresses. Include five different characteristics or traits. ● List and define five new or interesting words you learned. Presentation:
- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author develops the characters.
- Think about how the characters interact with each other and the types of relationships they develop.

Activity 4: Figurative Language

Objectives:

- Demonstrate understanding of the use of figurative language
- Define new vocabulary terms

Activity:

- As you read, identify elements of figurative language
- Look for five examples of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, hyperbole, idiom, allegory, and irony.
- Find or draw a picture to represent one of your examples.
- List and define five new or interesting words you learned.

Presentation:

- You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author uses figurative language to develop his/her style.

Activity 5: Symbols Objectives: ● Analyze literature/demonstrate understanding through the use of symbols ● Define new vocabulary terms Activity: ● As you read, identify examples of symbols. ● Identify five examples of symbolic images. ● Bring an object to represent one of your examples. ● List and define five new or interesting words you learned. Presentation: ● You will present your activity to the class, explaining how the author's use of symbolism helps to develop his/her style.	**Activity 6: Theme** Objectives: ● Analyze literature/demonstrate understanding of theme ● Define new vocabulary terms Activity: ● As you read, identify some quotations from the text that help to identify the theme. ● Create a poster (8½ x11in) with one quote from the novel that demonstrates its general theme. ● List and define five new or interesting words you learned. Presentation: ● You will present your activity to the class, explaining the theme of the novel and the quotation(s) you have selected.

Summer Reading Assignment Form:

Title:

Author:

Main Characters:

1. What are the important events that take place in the book? (List in chronological order)

2. What are the most important ideas that the author wants you to consider?

3. Copy one or two short quotations or passages that you think are particularly important.

Students going into Honors classes are assigned specific books to read:
Entering Honors English 9: *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
Entering Honors English 10: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
Entering Honors English 11: *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
Entering Honors English 12: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
Entering AP English: *Beowulf, The House on Mango Street*; **Summer AP Reading Packets will be distributed.**

Book Choice:

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Author:

_____

Student's Name:

_____

I have selected to read the above novel as my summer reading assignment. I have received a packet of information, and I fully understand the activity I must present at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Student's Signature:

_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature:

_____

Teacher's Signature:

_____

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."
~Walt Disney

Have a great summer!