

Calvert County Senior Summer Reading Program 2009

The Calvert County Board of Education encourages students to be lifelong and year-round learners. Therefore, a summer reading program is part of the high school English curriculum.

Program Description

During the summer, entering seniors who will be in **Honors English 12 (1407)** will be expected to read **two** books from the list on the back of this page. (Students enrolled in AP English will have a separate summer reading program.) Students should make their selections based on their interests and reading skills. Parents are encouraged to provide guidance in choosing books, as well as reading and discussing the works with their students.

- Students should be prepared to take an essay test on one of their books in their English class **Tuesday, September 1st, that can count up to 5% of their first quarter English grade.** The essay will be open book and will be an open-ended question intended to demonstrate that the student read and understood the book. (Students can also bring in notes. See the rubric in this packet.)
- Students should also complete the Summer Reading Book Project (see next page) based on their other book. **The assignment is due by Friday, September 4th, and can count up to 5% of their first quarter English grade.**

Seniors in **Pacesetter English** study a vast array of print and non-print (films, speeches, music, images, etc.) texts in several thematic units. To prepare for this new level of visual and auditory analysis and interpretation, seniors enrolled in Pacesetter English can choose either to

- read **two** books from the list on the back of this page and follow the directions above
- OR
- read **one** book from the back of this page **and** view one of the movies based on themes from Pacesetter English from the list below. (Multiple viewings of the film are recommended in order to encourage a deeper understanding of the movie.) Students who choose this option should plan to **take the fall essay test on the book they chose to read** and to complete any Summer **Reading Text Project (except a comic book) based on the film they watched.**

Only students enrolled in Pacesetter English can choose to watch one of the movies below in place of reading one summer reading book.

Search for Self:

What's Eating Gilbert Grape PG-13 (Mature themes, language) (A 118 minute, 1993 comedy/drama with Johnny Depp and Leonardo Di Caprio) Trapped in a small town, Gilbert has to care for his mentally impaired brother and obese mother, which hinders him when love walks into his life.

Antwone Fisher PG-13 (Violence, language, mature thematic material involving child abuse) (A 120 minute, 2002 drama with Denzel Washington) Based on a true story about a young sailor in the Navy who has an explosive temper that gets him into trouble so is sent to the naval psychiatrist to work out his anger issues.

The Quest/Journey/Adventure

Big Fish PG 13 (A fight scene, some images of nudity, and a suggestive reference) (A 125 minute, 2003 comedy/drama with Albert Finney, Jessica Lange, and Danny DeVito) This is about a son's attempt to understand his dying father through the tall tales of the elder Bloom's colorful life.

Master and Commander PG-13 (intense battle sequences, related images, and brief language) (A 138 minute, 2003 action/drama/adventure with Russell Crowe) The story of an English warship sailing during the Napoleonic era and engaging in a battle of wits and firepower with a rival captain during a perilous sea voyage.

Stranger in the Village

Spirited Away PG (Some scary moments) (A 125 minute, 2002 adventure/animation/fantasy) A Japanese anime film in which a girl wanders into a world ruled by traditional Japanese gods and spirits where her parents are changed into animals. In a series of fantastic adventures she tries to save her parents and help new friends—a moving and magical journey.

I Am Sam 2001 PG-13 (for language) (A 132 minute drama with Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Penn) A mentally retarded man fights for custody of his 7-year-old daughter, and in the process teaches his cold-hearted lawyer the value of love and family.

Acceleration by **Graham McNamee** (F) Seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a would-be serial killer who has started to stalk women. When the police seem disinterested, he and his two best friends try to track and trap the murderer before he can strike.

Anansi's Boys by Neil Gaiman (F) When Fat Charlie learns his father Anansi was the spider god, and his brother (who he never knew he had) inherited some of their father's powers, he resorts to magic; but things begin to go badly for just about everyone. (Mature themes)

The Appeal by John Grisham (F) Billionaire Carl Trudeau fears the Supreme Court will not vote in his favor, so he tries to buy himself a judge. He recruits an unsuspecting candidate and then manipulates him, markets him, and molds him. A powerful, timely, and shocking story.

The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly (F) David, 12, angry and lonely, escapes into a sometimes nightmarish land that is a strange reflection of his own world, populated by heroes and monsters, and ruled by a faded king. Dark and creative. (Mature themes, violent)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (F) Death is the narrator of this lengthy, powerful story of a town in Nazi Germany, but the focus is on a young orphan and her confrontation with horrifying cruelty and her discovery of kindness in unexpected places. (For sophisticated teens)

Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn (F) Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier (F) Jerry Renault bravely faces the harshness of evil and disappointments of reality as he wages his lonely battle against the ruling powers of his school in spite of formidable opposition. (Graphic language/mature themes)

Daisy Miller by Henry James (F) Portrays a beautiful, rich American girl traveling in Europe whose youthful innocence is sharply contrasted with European sophistication. A tragic tale about class and cultural differences and the lesson that money cannot buy everything.

Don't Die, My Love by Lurlene McDaniel (F) Luke and Julie, 17, have loved each other most of their lives. When Luke can't shake what he thinks is a virus, Julie persuades him to see a doctor. His test results are alarming, but Julie believes their love is stronger than anything.

Dracula by Bram Stoker (F) The original horror story of the undead creatures of the night—and the human lives they touch—as the mysterious Count Dracula brings death and terror to 18th century London. A classic Gothic novel told in a series of letters.

Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons (F) Ellen Foster is an 11-year-old growing up in a world full of obstacles such as poverty and a drunken, abusive father. She has only her own wit and courage—and the occasional kindness of others—to help her. (Mature themes)

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers (Bio) Myers interweaves fight sequences with the boxer's life story and the political events and issues of the day. Offers an overview of the troubled business of boxing and the great physical risks the sport entails.

High Heat by Carl Deuker (F) Shane Hunter, a star closer for his private school's baseball team, seems to have it all until his father is arrested. His mother is forced to move them into public housing and his life begins to fall apart. Enough sports action to satisfy any fan.

A Hope in the Unseen by Ron Suskind (NF) The story of a student at Ballou, a school in one of D.C.'s most dangerous neighborhoods, who, through determination and hard work, enrolls at Brown University. Funny and suspenseful, but also inspiring. (Mature themes)

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel A whimsical story of an Indian teenager and his confusion about life, religion, and animals. He's stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, an injured zebra and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger—a harrowing humorous, inspiring tale.

The Lovely Bones: A Novel by Alice Sebold (F) In the second sentence, the narrator, Susie Salmon, announces, "I was fourteen when I was murdered..." During the next ten years, she watches over her family and friends from Heaven as they struggle to cope with her murder.

Lucas by Kevin Brooks (F) Caitlin is drawn to Lucas, a handsome, mysterious drifter, but she must also face darker forces confronting her family. Then Lucas is hunted for an awful crime that Caitlin herself becomes involved in. A gripping story. (Mature themes, graphic language)

Marine Sniper by Charles Henderson (NF) There have been many Marines; there have been many marksmen. But there has been only one Sergeant Carlos Hathcock. He stalked the Viet Cong behind enemy lines. And each time he emerged from the jungle having done his duty.

1984 by George Orwell (SF) The great modern classic where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind—Winston is in grave danger because his longing for truth and decency leads him to secretly rebel.

One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer by Nathaniel C. Fick (Bio) A candid and fast-paced memoir describing the grueling regimen of Marine training & wartime deployment—including dangers and hardships they face in the Middle East. (Mature themes, Language)

One Child by Torey L. Hayden (NF) Sheila's an abused, emotionally disturbed 6-year-old labeled "unreachable." Her teacher, young and idealistic, is determined to save her. It's difficult to read about the abuse Sheila endures, but this is a compelling story. (Mature themes)

Runner by Carl Deuker (F) High-school senior Chance's alcoholic father can't keep a job, so when a shady man offers Chance \$250 a week to pick up packages, he's is suspicious but can't turn it down. He knows how much he'll earn—what he doesn't know is how much he'll pay.

Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy (F) Set during the French Revolution when aristocrats were being beheaded, the hero, known only by his code name The Scarlet Pimpernel, bravely saves them. A washbuckling adventure and love story, full of suspense but fun and exciting.

Song Yet Sung by James McBride (F) Set on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1850, this is the story of a runaway slave girl who, after a head wound, looks into the future and see the work of Martin Luther King and other civil rights reformers. These visions feed and support her journey toward freedom. Intricate and gripping tale of escaped slaves, free blacks, and slave catchers. (One Book One Maryland selection for 2009)

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (F) A ninth grader becomes a social outcast when she calls the police to bust a summer bash and spends the year coming to terms with the secret fact that she was raped during the party. (Mature themes, stereotypical characters)

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (F) An incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a moving story of family, friendship, faith, and the salvation of love, giving Western readers a rare glimpse into the suffering and mistreatment of Afghan women.

2009 Summer Reading Book Project for First Book

Select one of the projects below to demonstrate in a creative manner your understanding of one of the novels you read. This will count for up to 5% of your first quarter grade. All projects are due by Friday, September 4th. Most projects include an oral explanation that may last no longer than three minutes. The oral or written presentation is part of your final score.

Your project should focus on a literary element such as:

Theme Impact of Setting Conflicts Symbols Characterization Mood

GRAPHIC PROJECTS		
<p>A Comic Strip, drawn by hand or on a computer, which is <i>at least</i> 12 frames long and highlights important scenes. Short dialogue balloons are fine—but you must be sure to include an explanation of the scene at the bottom of each frame. Share orally with the class.</p>	<p>A Scrapbook for one character. Include mementos of the character such as pictures, ticket stubs, a lock of hair, notes from friends, awards, souvenirs, dried flowers, etc. (Be creative—avoid real pictures from the book!) Each item must be labeled and explained. Share orally with the class.</p>	
PRESENTATION PROJECTS		
<p>A Bag that Book project which uses an appropriate container (Can? Bag? Box?) that you (1) decorate to reflect the book and (2) put six items in that have a connection to the book. You must explain the container, decorations, and items orally to the class and in a brief written report to the teacher.</p>	<p>Can you Prove in Five Minutes that you read your book? Give a 2½ minute oral presentation in which you (1) try to convince your audience to read the book and (2) try to convince your teacher that you read the book. Then fellow students and your teacher have 2½ minutes to ask you questions about the book.</p>	
TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS		
(Talk to your teacher about whether to present to class or hand in.)		
<p>A mock up of a MySpace Page for a main character from your book. (It can't be on the MySpace site because that is not accessible from school.) Required: "About Me" section that includes physical description, personality, interests, and friends. Pick three options: Pictures of people, places or events; heroes; description of family; goals; favorites; music; movies, TV and books</p>	<p>A Playlist of <i>at least</i> five (school appropriate) songs that one or more of the characters in the book would have on his/her playlist. Include a chorus or verse from each song and identify which character would have listened to that song and explain why. Be sure to type the playlist, verses, and explanations.</p>	
WRITTEN PROJECTS		
(Can be handed in to your teacher with a written commentary or shared with the class.)		
<p>Create a Newspaper Page with <i>at least</i> four typed newspaper articles based on people and events from the book. Be sure to write the articles in newspaper styles—straight news, features, advice columns, etc.—and place them on a page in columns so it resembles a newspaper. You may include relevant pictures or ads.</p>	<p>Write a Collection of Four (or more) Poems (each at least 10 lines long) about significant events, characters, settings, themes, conflicts, etc. in the book. Include titles for each poem. In your commentary or sharing, you must explain why you wrote each poem and how each one relates to the book.</p>	<p>Create an Interview with a Character. Write seven questions to ask a main character and then write what the character's response to each question would be. Be sure the answers refer to specific details in the book and give insight into the character.</p>

