



**Trenton Catholic  
Academy**

**Summer Reading  
Assignments  
And  
Class Assignments**

**2008**

## SUMMER READING

Welcome to the summer reading program. The purpose of reading during the summer is to continue to develop the skills you learned during the school year as well as to enjoy how writers skillfully use the English Language. In addition, the book selected as the “universal book” focuses on issues that are prevalent in the world.

Reading is the vehicle which allows the imagination and the soul to aspire to spirituality, to travel through foreign lands, to delve into science, to investigate world cultures, and to meet famous characters.

This booklet contains the following: guidelines and questions for the “universal” book, *Fahrenheit 451*; reading assignments for all English classes, suggestions for science projects, assignments for math classes, and information about Service Projects.

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**Choose the assignments that are appropriate to your courses.**

## SUMMER READING

### All Trenton Catholic Academy Students

This summer all students, incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors are **required** to read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. This book is set in a futuristic American city in which books are collected and burned.

Requirements:

- Before you begin to read this book, answer on loose leaf the “Pre-reading Questions.”
- As you read the book, answer the questions that are in this booklet. Answer the questions on loose leaf.
- This assignment is due **the first day you return to school**. There will be boxes in the Main Lobby in which to put your assignments.

At the beginning of the school year, we will have discussions on this book during which you will share your reactions. Each student will be expected to participate. **If you wish to be a discussion leader**, please see Miss Fabian.

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Directions: Answer the following questions with substantial material. Answers may be written in ink on loose leaf paper or computer generated.

Pre-reading questions

1. This book is about a futuristic society in which books are illegal. What do you think it would be like to live in a society without books?
2. Think of a situation in which your opinion on a controversial issue differed from most other people's view. Why do you think most people prefer to go along with the majority?
3. How do you think a writer might use a novel about the future to comment on problems in today's society?

Questions during reading

“The Hearth and the Salamander”

1. How does Montag feel about his job at the beginning of the novel?
2. What is so different about Clarisse McClellan? How does meeting her affect Montag?
3. Contrast Clarisse and Mildred Montag.
4. Why does the Hound growl at Montag? What might this action foreshadow?
5. Explain whether you would like to live in Montag's society.
6. Why do you think Bradbury creates a false history of firemen?
7. Describe how Montag changes after the fire at the old woman's home.

8. What is Beatty's rationale for burning books? What reply would you make to his arguments for censorship?

“The Sieve and the Sand”

9. What has happened to Clarisse?
10. Why does Montag go to see Professor Faber?
11. What reason does Faber give for this society's fear and hatred of books?
12. Faber tells Montag that three things are missing from their society. Present your views on whether Faber's comment is true of today's society as well.
13. How does Montag eventually get Faber to agree with him? What is their plan?
14. How do Mildred's friends react to the poem Montag reads? Why do they react so strongly?
15. Do you agree with Faber that Montag's outburst is foolish? Explain.

“Burning Bright”

16. When he returns to work, what is the first call Montag answers? Who turned in the alarm?
17. Would you consider the attack on Beatty as murder? Give reasons for your answer.
18. Describe Montag's escape from the city. Where does he eventually find safety?
19. Why do you think Bradbury describes the capture of Montag's stand in?
20. If you were a “dust jacket” for a book, which book would you remember?
21. Does the novel end in hope or despair? Provide reasons for your response.

22. Bradbury's first title for this book was *The Fire Man*. The published title; i.e. *Fahrenheit 451*, is the temperature at which paper burns. Comment on which title you think is more appropriate.

### Discussion Questions

Write your reactions to the following prompts. Your responses will serve as the basis for discussion on the book in September.

- A. Bradbury writes about his futuristic society as if it were real. How believable are the people and events in this novel? Elaborate.
- B. Choose three (3) words to describe the society in which Montag lives. Cite examples from the novel to support your choices.
- C. What is the most important change Montag undergoes? What causes this change?
- D. Describe a relationship between Montag and another important character
- E. What will become of Montag at the end of the novel? Will he be able to rebuild his society? Explain.
- F. This novel describes the problems of an imaginary society in the future. What does the novel "have to say" about problems in today's society?
- G. After reading this book, what would you have liked to say to Montag or to one of the other characters?

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

<b>ENGLISH DEPARTMENT</b>
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### GRADE 9

Course	Book	Author
English 1/ Writing Skills	1) <i>The Other Side of Dark</i>	Joan Lowry Nixon
	2) <i>Somewhere in the Darkness</i>	Walter Dean Myers
Literary Types	1) <i>Izzy Willy-Nilly</i>	Cynthia Voigt
	2) <i>Downsiders</i>	Neal Shusterman

### Honors Literary Types

To fulfill the requirements for Honors English, a student must submit two (2) summer reading assignments. These reports must be computer-generated.

**Friday, July 25**                      **First Assignment due**  
**Wednesday, September 3**      **Second Assignment due**

1) <i>The Chosen</i>	Chaim Potok
2) <i>The Life of Pi</i>	Yan Martel

Answer the following questions for each book in well-written paragraphs.

- Give the mood or tone of the story. Find six (6) words or phrases from the beginning of the selection, which prove your choice.
- What is (are) the setting(s) of the story? What imagery does the author use in establishing the setting?
- Describe two major characters and use direct quotations to support your assessment of the character. Refer to details other than physical descriptions.

- What are the turning point, the climax, and the resolution of the story?
- Evaluate the story. Consider these questions as you write your evaluation. Are there people who would benefit from reading this story? Who? How did you benefit? Include both positive and negative impressions of the story. In every case, use examples to support your opinions.

The assignment may be dropped off in the Main Office or mailed addressed to:

Mrs. P. Bencivengo  
175 Leonard Ave.  
Hamilton, NJ 08610

## GRADE 10

Course	Book	Author
English 2	1) <i>Downriver</i>	Will Hobbs
	2) <i>Pigman</i>	Paul Zindel
American Literature	1) <i>Of Mice and Men</i>	J. Steinbeck
	2) <i>Scorpion</i>	Walter Dean Myers

## Honors American Literature

Write two (2) computer-generated reviews following the guidelines.

Monday, July 7 - First review due mailed or delivered to Main Office in an envelope labeled with your name and Honors American Literature.

Wednesday, September 3 - Second review is due the first day of school.

**Book****Author**

- 1) *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- 2) *Night*

Harper Lee  
Elie Wiesel

The review should include the author's name and title of the book as the heading. Evaluate the book using these questions. The questions are not to be answered in a list but incorporated into paragraph form.

1. Give the mood or tone of the plot. Find six (6) words or phrases from the first chapter to support your choice.
2. What is/are the setting/s of the plot?
3. Describe four (4) of the major characters and use direct quotations to provide insight to their traits.
4. What is the climax of the plot?
5. What is the unifying theme of the story?
6. What did the author hope to achieve by writing this book? (e.g. only for entertainment; for instruction; to teach a moral; to make a political statement; to provide social commentary, other)

**GRADE 11****Course****Book****Author**

English 3	1) <i>Rules of the Road</i>	Joan Bauer
	2) <i>Miracle's Boys</i>	Jacqueline Woodson

British Literature	1) <i>Rebecca</i>	Daphne DuMaurier
	2) <i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding

**Honors British Literature**

Read and write a review of the three (3) selections from the list provide. All reviews must be computer-generated.

<b>Friday, July 11</b>	<b>First review due.</b>
<b>Friday, August 15</b>	<b>Second review due.</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 3</b>	<b>Third review due.</b>

First two reviews may be mailed or dropped off in the Main Office in an envelope with your name and Honors British Literature.

The review should include the author's name and the title of the work as the heading. The questions listed below are guidelines not to be answered as test questions; rather to be incorporated into paragraph form.

#### INTRODUCTION

A minimum of one paragraph containing three (3) to five (5) carefully worded sentences in which you explain why

### **Honors British Literature continued**

the author wrote the book and what ideas and attitudes he was trying to express.

#### SYNOPSIS

A maximum of one paragraph which you describe the plot and the major characters in the plot. Give important details only.

#### REVIEW

A minimum of two paragraphs in which you highlight your reaction to the book covering both positive and negative aspects of the plot and its structure. Consider such questions as: What is the intrinsic value of the work? Is it entertaining? Did the author intend to teach a moral? To make a political statement? To provide social commentary? This part of the assignment is the most important part. Be specific in evaluations.

#### **Book/Play**

#### **Author**

1) *Wuthering Heights*

Emily Bronte

2) *A Tale of Two Cities*

Charles Dickens

3) *The Merchant of Venice*

William Shakespeare

## GRADE 12

Course	Book	Author
World Literature	1) <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>	E.M. Remarque
	2) <i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Sandra Cisneros

### AP English

All assignments, except #4, must be computer-generated. You may mail assignments or drop them in the main office in an envelope with Miss L. Fabian on it.

<b>Friday, July 4</b>	<b>Assignment #1 due</b>
<b>Monday, July 28</b>	<b>Assignment #2 due</b>
<b>Friday, August 15</b>	<b>Assignment #3 due</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 3</b>	<b>Assignment #4 due</b>

**Assignment #1** *Lord of the Flies* William Golding

In a novel or play, a confidant (male) or a confidante (female) is a character, often a friend or relative of the hero or heroine, whose role is to be present when the hero or heroine needs a sympathetic listener in which to confide. Frequently, the result is, as Henry James remarked, that the confidant(e) can be as much “the reader’s friend as the protagonist’s.” However, the author sometimes uses this character for other purposes as well.

Write an essay, minimum five paragraphs, in which you discuss the various ways this type of character functions in *Lord of the Flies*.

**Assignment #2** *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe

Answer the following questions in a **question/response format**.

a. The threads of this story are related in a circular fashion, as opposed to a conventional linear pattern. What effect does this impose on the tale of Ikemefuna? What effect does it have on the story of Ezinma?

b. The sacrifice of Ikemefuna could be seen as being parallel to the crucifixion of Jesus. The event also raises a series of questions. Ikemefuna and the villagers that are left behind are told that he is “going home.” Does this euphemism for dying contain truth for them? Do they believe they are doing him a favor? Why do they wait three years, allowing him and Okonkwo’s family to think of him as a member of their family? Finally, Okonkwo, “the father,” allows the sacrifice to occur as God presumably allowed Christ’s sacrifice, with no resistance. How can one accept this behavior and maintain love for the father or God?

c. While the traditional figure of Okonkwo can no doubt be seen as the central figure in the tale, Achebe chooses to relate his story in the third person rather than in the first person narrative style. What benefits does he achieve by adopting this approach?

d. Okonkwo rejects his father’s way and is, in turn, rejected by Nwoye. Do you think this pattern evolves inevitably through the nature of the father/son relationship? Or is there something more being represented here than mere generational conflict?

e. The title of the novel is derived from the William Butler Yeats’ poem entitled, “The Second Coming,” concerned with the second coming of Christ. The complete line reads: “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.” What layer of meaning are discernable when this completed line is applied to the story?

**Assignment #3** *The Metamorphosis* Franz Kafka

Using the Readers Guide, OR the PMLA Guide, OR the Humanities Index, OR EBSCO Host, locate and photocopy a critical/analytical essay about this book. You may also use one included in the novel, if you have such an edition. Then write an essay in which you support or refute the main ideas presented by the critic in the article you have read. Attach the article.



## **MATH DEPARTMENT: All Honors Classes**

Summer assignments are given to those in the following courses only:

Honors Geometry  
Honors Algebra 2 and Trigonometry  
Honors Calculus

Assignments will be mailed in July. The assignments are in two parts.

Part 1 Writing Assignment	25 points
Part 2 Problem Assignment	75 points

### **Monday, August 25 – due date for both parts.**

Drop off the assignments at school in the Main Office. Keep the question papers for later reference. This assignment will count as your first test grade.

Mailing address: Mrs. Anne C. Sabol  
Trenton Catholic Academy  
175 Leonard Ave  
Hamilton, NJ 08610

If you are taking one of the courses listed above and do not receive an assignment packet by July 28 or if you have other questions, contact Mrs. Sabol at 586-3705 ext 32. Mrs. Sabol will not be in school July 31 through August 10.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Any student taking a science class during the 2008-2009 school year may select to do a science project in place of the final exam. If a student selects this option the student will meet with the science chairperson, Mr. Paul Lucuski, on a regular basis during the school year for mentoring purposes. Students may send topic ideas to [plucuski@trentoncatholic.org](mailto:plucuski@trentoncatholic.org) over the summer to discuss possible ideas. The student should have an approved topic by the first week of school.

The following website may be a good source for ideas.

[www.surfnetkids.com/sciencefairideas.htm](http://www.surfnetkids.com/sciencefairideas.htm)

## **CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM – All Students**

All students must complete a specific number of service hours for each year at Trenton Catholic Academy. Students may begin completing their hours over the summer. Precise records should be kept. These records are to be submitted to the religion teacher in September. Records should include: A brief description of the service, the dates and number of hours the service was completed, and the signature and contact information for the adult supervisor. All service for students in grades 9 -11 must be completed by a date determined by the Administration in the Spring. Seniors must have their service hours completed by the date specified at the end of the FIRST Semester. Below is the list of specific hours needed for each class:

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	20 hours (10 each semester) of supervised volunteer service to family, school and /or church and assist in class projects for the needy. Students will be required to maintain a journal.
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	20 hours (10 each semester) of supervised volunteer service to family, school and /or church and assist in class projects for the needy. Students will be required to maintain a journal.
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15 hours (first semester) of service to a non-profit organization and write two letters to legislators regarding peace or justice issues. 10 hours (second semester) of service to a non-profit organization, write two letters to legislators regarding a bioethics issue, and write two page paper reflecting on their experience of service to the community

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

25 hours (first semester) of service to a non-profit organization and write a two page paper reflecting on their experience.  
There is no service requirement for the second semester.



English Department  
Trenton Catholic Academy  
175 Leonard Avenue  
Hamilton, NJ 08610

609-586-3705

[www.trentoncahtolic.org](http://www.trentoncahtolic.org)