

Mount Paran Christian School  
***HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING PROGRAM***  
Summer 2010

Mount Paran Christian School encourages every student to begin the summer reading projects early. As a vital part of our college preparatory curriculum, summer reading assignments form a bridge into the work students will be doing in English during the upcoming school year. Additionally, MPCS wants to foster an appreciation for solid literature. Reading widely also helps to develop vocabulary and a sense of language structure.

## **Instructions**

Please purchase books with the specific ISBN where indicated on the list.

Every student will complete a template for one book during the summer. The template is included with this information and as link to download from the school website.

**Students should not wait until the week or two before school starts to begin reading these books!**

Please read the instructions and models carefully on each template. Notice that the models are based on *The Old Man and the Sea*. Ninth graders in Core classes may **not** repeat the model as one of the analysis points on the templates **except** for the "Plot" template.

Do the work neatly and carefully. These papers will become important study materials for later English courses and a grade will be given for this process.

Realizing that Mount Paran's summer reading program is challenging, we encourage you to contact us via e-mail if you have any questions about the summer reading project. Templates are due the second day of class.

12th grade Mrs. Greta Zefo [gzefo@mtparanschool.com](mailto:gzefo@mtparanschool.com)

11th grade Mrs. Donna Wood\* [dwood@mtparanschool.com](mailto:dwood@mtparanschool.com)

10th grade Mrs. Lisa Nicholas [lnicholas@mtparanschool.com](mailto:lnicholas@mtparanschool.com)

9th grade Mrs. Daina Cannon [dcannon@mtparanschool.com](mailto:dcannon@mtparanschool.com)

\* indicates Department Chair

## On Level Twelfth Grade:

**Required Reading** – All On Level Students

### ***Macbeth* by William Shakespeare**

Any edition is fine as long as it is the full-length text in the original **Shakespearean** language. You will not complete a template for *Macbeth*; rather, you should make extensive margin notations. This will require you to have your own copy of the play which you will submit the first week of school.

Margin notations are comments and questions made by the reader that demonstrate interaction with the text. The grade will be based on **thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and accuracy**. Most every page should include multiple notations.

Items for inclusion are as follows:

- Define new vocabulary words.
- Label literary techniques (simile, metaphor, personification, allusion, hyperbole, oxymoron, etc.).
- Ask questions.
- Underline meaningful quotes and explain the value of each.
- Relate specific passages to your own life.
- Make predictions.
- Draw pictures in order to visualize descriptions.
- Summarize sections or scenes.

### **Book of Choice - All On Level Students Select One**

In addition to *Macbeth*, choose **one** of the following novels for which you will complete a reading template due the second day of school. Summaries are outlined below to assist you with selecting novels most suited to your taste. Though no specific ISBNs are required, students must read a complete and unabridged text. Dover Classics eliminate lengthy introductions and notes and are usually reliable full text editions at affordable prices.

#### *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

One of the most powerful dramas of Christian faith ever written, this captivating allegory of man's religious journey in search of salvation follows the pilgrim as he travels an obstacle-filled road to the Celestial City. Along the way, he is confronted by monsters and spiritual terrors, among them Worldly Wiseman, Giant Despair, and the demons of the Valley of the Shadow of Death. This enormously influential seventeenth-century classic is universally known for its simplicity, vigor, and beauty of language.

#### *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Jack Worthing and his friend Algernon Moncrieff are practicing elaborate deceptions to woo the women they love. Jack pretends to be a fictitious character named Ernest;

Algernon invents a sick friend named Bunbury who serves as a convenient excuse to leave town whenever the going gets tough. This witty satire of Victorian social conduct is one of the most frequently performed plays in the English language— and one of the funniest.

*Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare

If you have read only Shakespearean tragedies, it is high time you experience one of his greatest romantic comedies. Filled with sarcasm, denial, love, and deception, this light-hearted, short play is, nevertheless, staged with the most dramatic of human emotions— passion and jealousy.

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

This pre-Victorian tale of British society centers on Mrs. Bennett's life-task of marrying off her five daughters since none of them are eligible to receive their father's inheritance. Elizabeth Bennet is the bright, self-assured, and irreverent daughter, her father's favorite. Fitzwilliam Darcy is the snobbish, disapproving, and very proper nephew of a wealthy landowner. Austen's novel recounts the comic misadventures of these two opposites whose stubborn pride and foolish prejudices threaten to keep them apart forever.

## Twelfth Grade Honors

**Required Reading** – All Honors Level Students

### ***Macbeth* by William Shakespeare**

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#### *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

Upon boarding a bus in a nondescript neighborhood, the narrator is taken to Heaven and Hell. The narrator's descriptions of sin and temptation will hit quite close to home for many readers. Lewis has a genius for describing the intricacies of vanity and self-deception, and this book is tremendously persistent in forcing its reader to consider the ultimate consequences of everyday pettiness.

#### *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Jack Worthing and his friend Algernon Moncrieff are practicing elaborate deceptions to woo the women they love. Jack pretends to be a fictitious character named Ernest; Algernon invents a sick friend named Bunbury who serves as a

convenient excuse to leave town whenever the going gets tough. This witty satire of Victorian social conduct is one of the most frequently performed plays in the English language— and one of the funniest.

*Othello* by William Shakespeare

This play tells the story of a Moorish general in command of the armed forces of Venice, who earns the enmity of his ensign Iago by passing him over for a promotion. Partly for revenge and partly out of pure evil, Iago plots to convince Othello that Desdemona, his wife, has been unfaithful to him.

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

This pre-Victorian tale of British society centers on Mrs. Bennett's life-task of marrying off her five daughters since none of them are eligible to receive their father's inheritance. Elizabeth Bennet is the bright, self-assured, and irreverent daughter, her father's favorite. Fitzwilliam Darcy is the snobbish, disapproving, and very proper nephew of a wealthy landowner. Austen's novel recounts the comic misadventures of these two opposites whose stubborn pride and foolish prejudices threaten to keep them apart forever.

*Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett

This short and witty play portrays the predicament of Vladimir and Estragon, two tramps who are trapped in an endless wait for the arrival of a mysterious figure named Godot. Until he arrives, they dare not leave; yet it is questionable whether Godot will ever arrive at all. In simple but poetic language, Beckett portrays the human condition as alternately comic and tragic. One of the most influential dramas of the twentieth century, *Waiting for Godot* helped usher in the theatrical movement known as Theater of the Absurd. The complex symbolism may require students to supplement their reading with *Spark Notes* or *Cliffs Notes* for review and analysis.