

Name _____

Mr. McComb

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Summer 2017



GT English 10 Summer Reading

Welcome to the GT English 10 summer reading assignment. Although summer reading can seem like a chore or punishment, it is actually a wonderful opportunity for you to improve your reading and analysis skills, which will assist you in being as prepared as possible for our class next fall. The novel choices this year were taken, in part, from the AP English Literature and Composition exam for high school students.

If you have any questions regarding the assignment or the class, please email Mr. McComb at smccomb@bcps.org. DO NOT wait until the week before school for your reading or writing assignments. Our turn-around time for answering questions will not be immediate.

For this summer, you will need to complete write-ups for 4 TED talks, 4 current events, and will need to choose 1 novel from the reading list. You will be relating this novel to the current events as well as completing an in-school project at the beginning of the year.

You are in a GT class and the expectations are high. I have chosen this specific assignment to get you familiar with topics that are beneficial to your learning but also give you choice on what you will focus. Please choose the TED talks, current events, and novel that **interests you**. It will make each assignment a lot easier.

Don't wait until the last minute to complete the assignment! It is **due the week of September 5th**, and we will not be accepting assignments after this date.

GT English10 Summer Assignment:

TED Talks and Current Events

Directions: Select 4 TED Talks from the list below, and 4 global current events from the approved sites list and complete the assignments indicated for each. Assignments are due the week of September 5th.



TED Talks: Select 4 of the talks below by searching for them by title or author on www.ted.com and completing the assignment outlined below.

1. How not to be ignorant about the world: Hans and Ola Rosling
2. The hidden reason for poverty the world needs to address now: Gary Haugen
3. The danger of a single story: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
4. The best stats you've ever seen: Hans Røling
5. The leaders who ruined Africa, and the generation who can fix it: Fred Swaniker
6. How I work to protect women from honor killings: Khalida Brohi
7. How to combat modern slavery: Kevin Bales
8. 4 lessons I learned from taking a stand against drugs and gun violence: Ilona Szabo de Carvalho

Assignment:

Complete a one-page reflection (typed or handwritten) on each talk you select with the following:

- What is the thesis of the presentation
 - Select three examples given by the speaker. Does each effectively support the thesis? Why?
 - What is the call to action or implications of this talk? How does that strike you, personally?
-



Current Events: Select **4** articles of your choice from the list of websites below.

For each article complete the assignment below in detail.

Websites: nytimes.com/world | bbc.com/news/world | washingtonpost.com/world | time.com/world

Assignment: Choose your articles judiciously. This is an opportunity to learn more about the world beyond America through issues that intrigue YOU. (Obviously, the article should focus on a country other than the US). Complete a ~1-page response (handwritten or typed) covering the following in-depth

- 1) Biographical information: title, author, date of publication, source
- 2) Summary of the article (3-5 sentences)
- 3) How does this change or reinforce the way that you saw this issue/location? (3-5 sentences)
- 4) Connect this article to one of the two texts you're reading this summer (*Monster* or your chosen text). This connection could be found in theme, conflict, character or another way. (5+ sentences)

Book Review Assignment (500-700 words)

Goal: Write an explanatory review that examines a text and conveys information about and responses to the text clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. Covering:

1) GENERAL INFORMATION -- What the reader ought to know

What kind of book is it? (Picture book? Historical fiction? Nonfiction? Fantasy? Adventure?)

Does the book belong to a series? How long is the book? Is it an easy or a challenging read?

Is there anything that would be helpful for the reader to know about the author? For instance, is the author an expert in the field, the author of other popular books, or a first-time author?

2a) PLOT -- What happens?

Writing about the plot is the trickiest part of a review because you want to give the reader a feel for what the book is about *without spoiling the book for future readers*. The most important thing to remember is that you must never give away the ending. No one likes a spoiler.

2b) CHARACTERS -- Who lives in the book?

Reviews should answer questions about the characters in fiction books or non-fiction books about people. What makes them interesting? What conflicts do they face? Are they relatable? Favorites? Why?

2c) THEME-- What is the book about at its heart?

What is the book really about? This isn't the plot, but rather the ideas behind the story. Is it about the triumph of good over evil or friendship or love or hope? Some common themes include: change, desire to escape, facing a challenge, heroism, the quest for power, and human weaknesses.

2d) SETTING -- Where are we?

The setting is the time and place the story occurs. More than just the location, write about the qualities/beliefs as well.

3) OPINION & ANALYSIS -- What do you really think?

This is where the reviewer shares his/her reactions to the book that go beyond the essential points described above. You may spend half of the review on this section.

-Why do you think other readers would enjoy it? Why did you enjoy it (if you did) or why didn't you.

-Does the book engage your emotions? If a book made you laugh or cry or think about it for days, include that.

-What do you like or dislike about the author's writing style? Is it funny? Is it hard to follow? Is it engaging?

-Are there parts that are simply not believable, even allowing for the reader's understanding that it is fiction or even fantasy? Are there mistakes? What was your favorite part of the book?

Scoring

	1	2	3	4
Inclusion of Book Elements	Review covers some, but not all of the elements of General Information, Plot, Characters, Setting, Theme.	Review covers all book elements, though some may lack sufficient depth.	Review effectively covers book elements with sufficient detail and insight.	Review effectively covers all book elements with remarkable insight and effectively engages the reader in the process.
Opinion and Analysis	Review provides some discussion of opinion and analysis, but is lacking in depth and evidence for opinion	Review provides opinion and analysis with evidence and reasoning.	Review provides an insightful critique of the text with well-reasoned evidence that proves convincing.	Review provides a remarkable critique that displays evidence of a judicious read with thorough analysis of evidence.
Quality of Writing	The review has distracting errors that distract from the quality of thinking and insight in the piece.	Though there may be some errors, they do not significantly detract from the piece.	The piece is nearly free of errors and the writing provides variety in structure and an engaging voice.	The writing has a clear authors voice while not losing the formality of academic writing, maintains mature vocabulary and structure.

GT 10 Summer Reading Options

1. *The Heart and the Fist* by Eric Greitens
2. *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann
3. *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood
4. *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
5. *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga
6. *White Teeth* Zadie Smith
7. *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood
8. *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
9. *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
10. *Middlemarch* by George Eliot
11. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
12. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
13. *A Passage to India* by E. M. Forster
14. *Paradise Lost* by John Milton
15. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
16. *The Plague* by Albert Camus
17. *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
18. *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse
19. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy
20. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
21. *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini
22. *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
23. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
24. *Waiting* by Ha Jin
25. *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce
26. *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
27. *Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James
28. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
29. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
30. *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
31. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coellio
32. *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah
33. *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen
34. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
35. *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
36. *Cry, The Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
37. *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert
38. *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen
39. *Equus* by Peter Shaffer
40. *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen
41. *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee
42. *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov
43. *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe
44. *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
45. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent* by Julia Alvarez

Sample Student Book Review

Teenager Cameron and his mother have been living in an impossible situation for years. When Cameron was eight, his mother escaped a violently abusive marriage taking him with her. Since then, his father has been “pursuing” them. No matter where they move, he’s always around the corner. Or is he? Stratton sets up a taut ambiguity. Either Cameron’s father is a clever stalker or his mother is suffering from paranoia. Are the precautions she takes—the constant surveillance, the prohibitions against Cameron’s use of social media—sensible or crazy? We don’t know, and neither does Cameron.

Allan Stratton’s *The Dogs* is a psychological thriller which depicts the point of view of Cameron, the story’s protagonist, who is attempting to solve the mysteries of the farmhouse. However, in his determination to uncover past secrets, Cameron begins to question his own memories, as well as his sanity. *The Dogs* is a fairly easy read and seems like a quick read of 200+ pages due to the suspense that takes place. The language is also very informal to depict the mind of a young teen, giving it a more realistic and authentic feel. Although the language is easily comprehensible, further and deeper analysis must be taken into account in order to truly understand Cameron’s isolation.

The thing about living in constant fear is that while you’re waiting for the worst to happen, you have plenty of time to doubt your own, and others’, judgements. Cameron, unsure if he’s scared because of his father tracking him down or because his mom is “crazy,” also has the stress of living under an abandoned farmhouse which is rumored to be haunted by a pack of dogs. Cameron begins to hear the voice of Jacky, though whether he is a ghost or a figment of the narrator’s imagination is unclear. What does become clear, however, is that Jacky and Cameron’s family situations are not dissimilar. Both curious and fearful, Cameron begins to unravel the truth behind Jacky’s disappearance and the rumors bestowed on the history of the farmhouse, while dealing with his own family issues. As days go by, and as people find Cameron crazier and crazier—including his own mother—Cameron struggles to tell the difference between reality and imagination.

The book touches on some heavy themes such as secrets and abuse. Another heavy theme depicted in this novel is mental issues, specifically how it affects one’s consciousness and how other’s react to it. Cameron has always had severe nightmares and has always talked to himself, or appears to be talking to “something,” ever since he was little. But with each move his condition has become worse and worse. This being him and his mother’s fourth move, with the already added factors of the psycho father, the crazy mom and the haunted farmhouse, Cameron has suffered through a lot. But instead of receiving help, everyone is saying that it’s just in his head. His own mother even started comparing him to his father. With no one on his side, with no one believing him, Cameron falls deeper and deeper into despair and isolation. There was a point where he had to constantly lie to his mother so that she didn’t have to keep doubting him. When he spoke of his problems he would add, “It’s probably just in my head,” to reassure his mom that he’s sane and to convince himself that he’s not going crazy. This just shows that by ignoring mental issues, it just gets worse and starts to affect a person’s wellbeing. This issue is very relatable to today because people with mental issues/disabilities are often misjudged due to other’s not understanding them.

Since the narrative is through the eyes and mind of Cameron, it is easy to influence the reader to believe what he was believing. This is why I really enjoyed *The Dogs*. My favorite kinds of books are the books where you can literally feel everything the protagonist or the narrator is feeling. Throughout the book I found myself condemning some of the actions Cameron took even though I knew it was a bad idea. This was because I was no longer thinking like a reader but Stratton made me think as Cameron. This story made me on edge the whole time, and although some parts were predictable, I was pleased with it nonetheless. It shows great believable characters and dramatically intertwined a ghost story with a thriller.