

**Brentwood Academy**  
**Summer Reading List 2010**  
**9th Grade English**

**A Rationale for Summer Reading:**

- To generate interest and pleasure that enriches literary experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To fill the educational void created by summer break
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing on the first day of class

**Texts:**

Required Text #1:

*MAUS Vol I and Vol II*      Art Spiegelman

Required Text #2: Select ONE of the following:

*Black Boy*      Richard Wright

*Killer Angels*      Michael Shaara

*Of Mice and Men*      John Steinbeck (\*Parental approval required because of language and themes)

*Jane Eyre*      Charlotte Bronte

*The Sword and the Stone* (Part I of *The Once and Future King*)      T.H. White

*The Glass Menagerie*      Tennessee Williams

**Reading and Writing Instructions for *MAUS*:**

Take notes and be prepared to discuss the following, or similar, questions/topics in a seminar format:

1. Discuss Spiegelman's decision to portray the characters as various animals.
2. How does Spiegelman's choice to intertwine autobiographical content with his father's story of the Holocaust reinforce the themes of the novel.
3. Is there a difference between the way Spiegelman illustrates the autobiographical portions of the novel and those portions which deal with his father's wartime experiences?
4. Discuss how pages 100-103 differ from the rest of the novel. Why are they unique in comparison?
5. Describe Artie's relationship with his father. Do they get along? How are they similar? How are they different?
6. Discuss the use of various kinds of masks in the novel. How do the masks relate to the concept of identity that is treated in the work?
7. *MAUS* is a Pulitzer prize-winning work. What does that mean? Research to discover the criteria used in awarding the prize. How does *MAUS* meet those expectations?

Students will write an in-class essay during the class period following the seminar.

## **Reading Instructions for Choice Book:**

As you read the second required text, which is chosen from the list above, have a pencil in hand. In the margin of the text, make notes or comments on important ideas, events, and characters. These notes will help you prepare for class discussion, tests, and in-class writing at the beginning of school. In addition, they will count for a grade.

## **Testing:**

In addition to the in-class essay, students will have other graded assignments over the reading: tests, quizzes, seminars, and additional writing assignments.

*Please remember the B.A. English policy: do not consult Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, internet novel guides, or any other electronic or printed summaries; work with the texts themselves.*