

Dear 9th grade English honors student:

We are excited to meet you next fall as you begin your high school journey through Martha's Vineyard Regional High School! As you settle into your summer break, please find a moment to take a close and careful look at the summer reading requirement for all incoming honors students.

While we hope that you will spend time getting lost in the pleasure of reading books of your choosing this summer, we ask that you read, additionally, ONE selection from the accompanying list and complete the attached assignment.

Our hope is that this summer reading assignment will help prepare you for the demands of honors English while simultaneously allowing us the opportunity to get to know you as an individual reader, writer, and thinker.

If you have any questions about this assignment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We'll see you in September!

Sincerely,

Ms. Hennigan Ms. Thibodeau
khennigan@mvrhs.org mthibodeau@mvrhs.org

Summer Reading Assignment

As you read, please take brief notes on some of the following concepts, for the purpose of organizing some of your thinking about what you read. We also want to help prepare you to go beyond mere summary when writing an essay on your book during the first week of class. You will be asked to turn in your notes on Day 1 — no more than 2 pages (so be discerning about what you choose to record) — and you *will* be allowed to use your notes during the in-class essay assignment.

If you select a work of FICTION, pay attention to some of the following:

- ★ **Overall:** What stood out to you? What did you notice?
- ★ **The main character:** What are the main character's most noteworthy traits? How does the main character change or evolve over the course of the book, and why? In what ways are these traits beneficial or detrimental to this change?
- ★ **The central conflict:** With what is your character struggling? What is the biggest challenge they face? What additional conflicts arise? Note their victories and defeats, and what these outcomes tell us about who they are and the circumstances in which they find themselves.
- ★ **External influences:** To what extent does time, place, society, politics, race, class, gender, culture, and/or religion impact your character's circumstances? To what extent do any of these influences shape who they are or who they become as a person over the course of the novel?
- ★ **Central theme(s):** What is the central message (or two) at the heart of the novel? How do you know this to be true?

If you select a work of NONFICTION, pay attention to some of the following:

- ★ **Overall:** What stood out to you? What did you notice?
- ★ **The central argument:** In one or two sentences, what is the central point the author is trying to make in this work?
- ★ **Relevance:** Who is the primary audience for this book? What are the central messages in the book? What might a reader gain from reading this? How is what you're learning about in this book relevant to young people, either in general or at this particular point in history? In your opinion, what are the three most important insights you might share with your classmates?
- ★ **Evidence and Reasoning:** What types of evidence does the author put forth? (Note some compelling facts, statistics, research studies, stories, eyewitness accounts, primary sources, comparisons, etc.) In your opinion, what is the most convincing evidence, and why?
- ★ **Purpose:** Why did the author choose to write this book? What convinced him/her/them to begin this research/tell this story?

English 9 Summer Reading Selections 2019

Orange, Tommy. *There There*. Fiction
Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. Fiction
Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*. Fiction
Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Invention of Wings*. Fiction
Portis, Charles. *True Grit*. Fiction
Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*. Fiction
Watson, Renee. *Watch Us Rise*. Fiction
Moon, Sarah. *Sparrow*. Fiction
Connor, Leslie. *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*. Fiction
Benway, Robin. *Far from the Tree*. Fiction
Acevedo, Elizabeth. *With the Fire on High*. Fiction
Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun Is Also a Star*. Fiction
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Journey of Little Charlie*. Fiction
Green, John and Levithan, David. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. Fiction
Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*. Fiction
Shusterman, Neil. *Dry*. Fiction
Thompson Walkere, Karen. *The Dreamers*. Fiction
Graham-Felsen, Sam. *Green*. Fiction
Perkins, Mitali. *You Bring the Distant Near*. Fiction

Brown, Don. *The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees*. Nonfiction
St. John, Warren. *Outcasts United*. Nonfiction
Ramesh, Madhuri. *Walking is a Way of Knowing*. Nonfiction
Davis, Kenneth. *More Deadly than War: The Hidden History of the Spanish Flu and the First World War*. Nonfiction
Saedi, Sara. *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card*. Nonfiction
Castaldo, Nancy. *Back from the Brink*. Nonfiction
Abdul-Jabarr, Kareem. *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court*. Nonfiction
Sotomayor, Sonia. *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*. Nonfiction
Blumenthal, Karen. *Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend*. Nonfiction
Partridge, Elizabeth. *Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam*. Nonfiction
Perry, Imani. *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry*. Nonfiction

*The high school will have a limited number of copies of each of these selections by July 15 (we'll have some copies sooner, and some selections have more copies than others). If you'd like to schedule a time to swing by and pick one up, please contact Ms. Hennigan by email (khennigan@mvrhs.org). Otherwise, our local libraries and bookstores can be a great resource!