

Team E Humanities

Summer Reading Reflection Assignment (2022)

Dear Students and Families,

Happy summer! You've made it through another year of middle school. As you plan your summer break, please include time to complete your summer reading assignment. Next year, we will be studying American history from the 18th century through the Harlem Renaissance with a focus on how conflict and compromise shaped it. Please choose one book from the list provided here (if you have a different idea for a summer reading novel set in the United States that would help you grow as a reader, you may read that instead as long as its plot will allow you to fulfill the assignment described at the end of this document):

The Sun Is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for ten years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. Events slowly conspire to bring the two leads together. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day. They tell their stories in alternating chapters. Additional voices are integrated into the book as characters interact with them.

We Are Not Free by Traci Chee **all novel descriptions provided by Barnes and Noble

During World War II, thousands of Japanese Americans were forced out of their homes and into mass incarceration camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor. *We Are Not Free* tells the fictionalized story of fourteen teenagers uprooted from their lives in San Francisco and sent to live in these camps, losing their freedom in the process. Poignant and heartbreaking, this is a beautifully written work about a little-talked-about part of American history.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

A National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature. Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel in a new series from Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award-winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive

when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Running. That’s all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

***Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas**

Angie Thomas has delivered yet another pitch-perfect return to Garden Heights, set seventeen years before *The Hate U Give*. In *Concrete Rose*, we meet a young Maverick Carter — he’s not yet Starr’s father, but at seventeen years old himself, he already knows the importance of taking care of his family. Though set in the past, this raw and eye-opening exploration into what it means to be a man in the Black community is just as relevant today. A must-read for all.

***Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

Jack London's novels and ruggedly individual life seemed to embody American hopes, frustrations, and romantic longings in the turbulent first years of the twentieth century, years infused with the wonder and excitement of great technological and historic change. The author's restless spirit, taste for a life of excitement, and probing mind led him on a series of hard-edged adventures from the Klondike to the South Seas. Out of these sometimes harrowing experiences — and his fascination with the theories of such thinkers as Darwin, Spencer, and Marx — came the inspiration for novels of adventure that would make him one of America's most popular writers. *The Call of the Wild*, considered by many London's greatest novel, is a gripping tale of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and dog-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds**

In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country, bitterly divided by racial tension.

Audacity by Melanie Crowder

A gorgeously told novel in verse written with intimacy and power, *Audacity* is inspired by the real-life story of Clara Lemlich, a spirited young woman who emigrated from Russia to New York at the turn of the twentieth century and fought tenaciously for equal rights. Bucking the norms of both her traditional Jewish family and societal conventions, Clara refuses to accept substandard working conditions in the factories on Manhattan's Lower East Side. For years, Clara devotes herself to the labor fight, speaking up for those who suffer in silence. In time, Clara convinces the women in the factories to strike, organize, and unionize, culminating in the famous Uprising of the 20,000. Powerful, breathtaking, and inspiring, *Audacity* is the story of a remarkable young woman, whose passion and selfless devotion to her cause changed the world.

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

The Assignment:

When you finish reading, compose a 250-500 word essay on how conflict and compromise drive the plot in your novel. Does the protagonist conflict with other characters? Is the conflict internal or external or a combination of both? How does the conflict evolve as the story progresses? Do the characters ever compromise with one another or even with their own values as they make critical decisions? These are all questions you may address as you craft your essay. This will be the first graded assignment of the coming school year and will be collected during the first week of school, so please save it carefully.

Other expectations:

-write the title and the author at the top of your paper, please

-at least two direct quotations, properly punctuated and cited with page number (quotations count toward word count)

-Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced

-at least two paragraphs with proper indentations and transitions