

“...that all people may be united with God and with one another...”

--Congregation of St. Joseph

SUMMER READING 2018-2019

Archbishop McNicholas High School

The English and Theology Departments are excited to announce a Big Read for Summer 2018, a school-wide reading experience. Every year, the English Department collaborates with another department for summer reading, and this year we are partnering with Theology and choosing to share the same book. *Please note that students enrolled in an Honors/AP English class will have an additional book for English.*

Students will be required to take a test for their English class and will produce a written response for their Theology class. ***Information on this assignment and the additional books for Honors students can be found below.***

In making these book choices for our students, we keep in mind our calling as Catholic Christians to work for the life and dignity of all human persons, as outlined in Catholic Social Teaching.

Students will have the option of taking the summer reading test for English during the summer (either June 29 or July 27 @ 10 a.m.) or in their English class on the Friday of the first week of school (August 24). Students who wish to take their summer reading test during the June or July date must register via [this link](#) at least two days prior to the test date.

To assist with comprehension and recollection of specific details, **students are strongly encouraged to take notes as they read.** It may be helpful to keep a chapter-by-chapter reading log that records important characters, settings, events, quotes, unfamiliar vocabulary, and personal reactions. Books read for this year's summer reading program will be alluded to throughout the school year in classroom discussions and composition work. Remember to read actively!

SUMMER READING FOR FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

“Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ accepted us to the glory of God.” --Romans 15:7

An Uncomplicated Life: A Father's Memoir of His Exceptional Daughter by Paul Daugherty

SUMMER READING FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS

“Racism is a roadblock to unity, and blinds us to the human dignity that lives in every human person. Even if we do not hold the evil of racism in our hearts, we must strive to open our eyes to the many places it can be enflamed or encouraged, impacting our brothers and sisters.” --United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2017.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Assignment for Theology Class:

As you read either *An Uncomplicated Life* or *Just Mercy*, record quotes in your reading journal that either relate to you personally (mirrors) or give you a new idea or perspective (windows). You should have a total of at least 12 quotes (6 mirrors; 6 windows) for the novel. Please include page numbers, label each quote clearly as a “mirror” or “window” in your journal, and include a brief (3-5 sentence) explanation of why you chose it. A sample reading journal entry is included below for your reference.

Instructions and examples:

- * Complete your journal independently. Be sure your reasoning is unique and original.
- * Journals will be collected the day you take the test (Summer dates June 29 or July 27; or August 24).
- * Quotes and reflections must be written in a one-subject composition notebook (not spiral-bound).

“...books can be both mirrors and windows - mirrors in which readers can see themselves on the pages of literature and thereby know their existence in the world is valid and true, and windows into worlds they might never have imagined.” (*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie)

Mirror Quote #1 - pg. 6

“I feel important with a pen in my hand. I feel like I might grow up to be somebody important. An artist. Maybe a famous artist. Maybe a rich artist.”

In this quote, Junior is talking about why he likes drawing cartoons so much and how he feels it might be the only way he will be able to leave his reservation. I am definitely not as good of an artist as Junior, but I remember feeling the same way about singing and playing the piano when I was younger. I wanted to grow up to be a famous musician, or a Broadway star. Playing the piano still always makes me feel good, even when there is no one else around to hear it.

Window Quote #1 - pg. 5

“The way I see it,” she said, “a person isn’t nothing more than a scarecrow. ... The only difference between one that stands up good and one that blows over is what kind of stick they’re stuck up there on.”

In this quote, Mama is trying to encourage Missy to apply for a good job at the local hospital. I think she is saying that all people are basically the same and that a person’s success or failure depends on how well she has learned from her parents or whoever “made” her. Mama is saying Missy is just as capable of doing the hospital job as the other kids at her school because she has been raised well and has a good support system at home. This shows Mama’s perspective of the world is very much tied to family roots and objects she is familiar with, like scarecrows.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING FOR HONORS STUDENTS

In addition to the Big Read selections above, Honors English students will also read the following selections and take a test over the book in English class. *The test for each book will take place in English classrooms on Fri. Aug. 31. No tests will be given during the additional summer reading test dates in June/July.*

English I Honors	Mrs. Jones	<i>Life As We Knew It</i> by Susan Beth Pfeffer
English II Honors	Mrs. Noble	<i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler
English III Honors	Mrs. Rupp	<i>Beowulf</i> version by Burton Raffel
English IV Honors	Mrs. Noble	<i>First They Killed My Father</i> by Loung Ung

AP English Literature and Composition – Summer Reading

Mrs. Dill

Overview

Incoming AP Literature students are required to read several books over the summer in preparation for the course and subsequent AP exam. One portion of the AP exam, the Free Response essay, demands that students have a wide range of challenging literary works on which they can draw when writing that essay. The goal of this summer's reading, however, is not only to prepare you for the exam, but also to initiate you into the conversation about ideas through books by both contemporary and classic authors.

AP Literature *is* college; it is not a preparation for college. If you are looking for ways around this reading assignment, you should not enroll in this class.

Students who do not complete the summer reading – all of it, as spelled out by these guidelines – will not be eligible to take the course.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Dill at jdill@mcnhs.org.

Requirements

Each student must do the following:

- Read the chosen book for the Big Read, ***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**, and take a test on the book during one of the summer dates listed above or on the first Friday of school on Aug. 24.
- Purchase, read, and annotate ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**. (Note: There are *many* used copies of this book on Amazon.com for only a couple dollars.)
- Read either ***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood** OR ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**, taking notes or annotating as needed to help you do well on the in-class essay on these books. These notes are for you; I will not collect or evaluate them.
- Write an in-class essay on the books in which you use the ideas from Foster's book as a guide to analyze the literature you read.