

Cynthia Hager
Sophomore Honors English
Summer 2020 Assignment
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Hello New Honors Sophomores! This last year has certainly given us a lot to think about, to miss, and to value in a whole new light! I'm hoping that you and your families have all stayed healthy and safe and with summer coming, you can all find ways to enjoy yourselves and each other. Summer is our chance to relax and I encourage you to make reading a part of how you do that!

Regarding next year, in many ways your Sophomore year remains a question mark, but one thing is for certain, we likely will be spending some of the school year distance learning. To that end, I will work hard this summer, with my colleagues, designing curriculum for you that will help you develop your reading and writing skills, whether we're in the classroom or connecting from our homes. It is my priority to make sure that you are challenged and are given what you need to further advance your reading and writing skills.

Speaking of summer, I am going to ask you to read with me over the next ten weeks. For me reading is a great escape. Whatever is on my mind usually doesn't travel with me when I'm absorbed in a good book. Books have always been an important part of my life. Can you remember your favorite books from your early childhood? Many of mine were written by Dr. Seuss. By reading *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches*, and *The Spooky Green Pants* I learned my first lessons about fairness, racism, and the fear of the unknown. I read now because I appreciate a good story and I appreciate the ideas a good story brings out about life. A good book forces me to think (and rethink) in ways that teach me something important about myself, about being human and about empathy. My favorite books are those that challenge me to expand the way I see the world.

Summer Assignment 2020:

This summer I am asking you to read a book. While you won't be asked to submit written work over the summer, I will ask that you are able to discuss and write about what you've read when we reconvene in the fall. Please choose a book from the list below and then get back to me via email to let me know what you've chosen. I've included links to book summaries to help you make an informed choice. My email address is chager@srcs.org

[Alice Walker *The Color Purple*](#)

[Dave Eggers *Zeitoun*](#)

[Mark Haddon *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*](#)

[Sonia Nazario *Enrique's Journey*](#)

Fall Expectations:

While I don't expect that you will be doing formal written assignments over the summer, I do expect that you will read carefully and will be able to write thematically about your book choice when we reconnect in the fall. Also, I would like to check in with you over the summer. I'll let you

know what that will look like. Any summer writing I ask of you will be informal and mainly for the purpose of seeing how you're doing with your reading and in life!

Staying in Touch:

I found this year that using Remind was the best way to reach out to my students and with Remind, we were able to communicate back and forth. I have created a Remind course that I would like you all to join using your phone numbers or your email addresses (phone numbers are preferable). Use the following Remind link to join the class:

<https://www.remind.com/join/@e3b6a92>

That's it for now. Reach out, if you have any questions for me. I really really really look forward to seeing you and getting to know you next year--in person!!!!

Best to you all,

Ms. Hager