

The Renaissance Charter School
Incoming 9th Grade Summer Reading Project 2020-2021

**If you have any questions over the summer, please email me:*

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DUE DATE: Friday September 25th, 2020

Submission on Google Classroom

All students entering the 9th grade are required to read **one ELA book** from the list below. Draft an outline, complete the writing assignment, and **submit an outline and typed essay on Friday September 25th**. The assignment will count as your **first ELA essay grade of the semester**. Books are all available through local libraries, bookstores, through online book vendors and some of which I provided an online pdf link. It is your responsibility to obtain the novel and to be prepared to submit this work in the fall.

Plagiarizing in ANY CAPACITY, will earn a zero and an incident report. Additionally plagiarism (of any form) is tracked in the high school and can result in semester failure and suspension if there are multiple occurrences.

Writing Assignment:

You will write an in-depth **character study** of the **protagonist** within the text. You will study the conflicts they are involved in and how they react in particular situations within the text.

1. Closely read and **analyze** the protagonist's thoughts, motivations and ideas in dealing with struggle.
2. Uncover and explain how and why they change throughout the story and make a judgement about how the world around them influences their decisions. *This is an analytical essay, so please do not use "I" because it creates a non-academic tone.*
3. Your essay needs to include an introduction, body paragraphs (at least 3) and conclusion as well as cited evidence from the text.

Create an outline based on this checklist to be turned in with your essay:

Use the following structure for your outline:

Introduction:

- __ Introduce the title of the book (*italicized*) and the author's first and last name capitalized.
- __ Introduce information relevant to your thesis argument (ex. setting, characters, key plot points).
- __ All essays must have a clearly articulated thesis statement, which will set the criteria for analysis.

Body Paragraphs (at least three):

- __ Clear topic sentence supporting the overall thesis statement
- __ Textual evidence should be both paraphrased **and** in the form of direct quotes.
- __ Use at least one quote per body paragraph.
- __ Evidence is introduced, explained and analyzed.
- __ Concluding Sentence finalizes the argument.

Conclusion:

- __ Re-states the thesis statement
- __ Summarizes the topic argument .
- __ Connects the thesis argument to the larger world and challenges the reader to new understandings.

Choices of literature (summaries from Good Reads):

1. *On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But now that her mom has unexpectedly lost her job, food banks and shutoff notices are as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it—she has to make it. *On the Come Up* is Angie Thomas's homage to hip-hop, the art that sparked her passion for storytelling and continues to inspire her to this day. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; of the struggle to become who you are and not who everyone expects you to be; and of the desperate realities of poor and working-class black families.

2. *Bait* by Alex Sanchez

After Diego lands himself on probation for fighting, he doesn't trust his probation officer, Mr. Vidas. But as he begins to open up, Diego realizes that he needs Mr. Vidas's help to get his anger under control. To do that, Diego will need to face the nightmares from his past head-on and confront the memories he's been avoiding. Will anyone even believe him if he tells the truth about his stepfather? Award-winning author Alex Sanchez writes about a teen's very real struggle to overcome his anger and take control of his life.

FREE ONLINE VERSION (<https://epdf.pub/bait9aba84784caea078bc5aed39a16a8f9b24484.html>)

3. *Legend* by Marie Lu

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

FREE ONLINE VERSION

(<https://fliphtml5.com/bcchf/ovww>)

4. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephon Chbosky

This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory. The world of first dates and mixtapes, family dramas and new friends. The world of sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, when all one requires is that the perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite. Through Charlie, Stephen Chbosky has created a deeply affecting coming-of-age story, a powerful novel that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller coaster days known as growing up.

5. *Bodega Dreams* by Ernesto Quinonez

In a stunning narrative combining the gritty rhythms of Junot Diaz with the noir genius of Walter Mosley, **Bodega Dreams** announces the arrival of a writer who *The Village Voice* has already hailed as "a Writer on the Verge." The word is out in Spanish Harlem: Willy Bodega is king. Need college tuition for your daughter? Start-up funds for your fruit stand? Bodega can help. He gives everyone a leg up, in exchange for loyalty--and a steady income from the drugs he pushes. Lyric, inspired, and darkly funny, this powerful novel brilliantly evokes the trial of Chino, a smart, promising young man who turns to Bodega for a favor. Chino is drawn to Bodega's street-smart idealism, but soon finds himself over his head, navigating an underworld of switchblade tempers, turncoat morality, and murder.

6. *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. From acclaimed author

Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.

FREE ONLINE VERSION:

(<https://fliphtml5.com/kgnh/sjng>)

Happy Summer Reading!