

The Renaissance Charter School Incoming 10th 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 tenth 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.

Writing Assignment - Write a literary analysis essay that directly addresses **one** of the literary essay options below. **DO NOT simply summarize what happens in the book. ANALYZE** the book through selecting relevant moments in the texts where characters, conflicts and/or setting plays a significant role in the novel of your choice. You must introduce a thesis statement that explains how the literary element of your **choice** develops throughout the course of the novel in your essay response.

Literary Essay Options:

1. **Characterization/ Character Development:** The protagonist is the main character in a work of literature who often changes in some important way by the end of the work. In your book, identify and describe **three** ways the protagonist changes. Explain why these changes are important in the story.
2. **Conflict:** In every story, the protagonist faces and must cope with or overcome conflicts. In your essay identify and describe **three** major conflicts that shift the direction of the novel, or contribute to the development of a character when faced with a difficult situation. Explain why these conflicts are important to the overall arc of the story.
3. **Setting:** Setting contributes to different texts in a variety of different capacities. Often the backdrop of a novel changes the trajectory and ultimately the meaning of how the conflicts and characters appear to readers. When the place of the conflict changes, new meaning is constructed. *For example, Lord of the Flies* would be an entirely different narrative if it were not set on an island. The isolation provides a realistic backdrop for certain atrocities to take place. For a novel of your choice you will determine how the setting contributes to the novel using **three** relevant examples from the text.

Essay Checklist:

- __ You MUST create an OUTLINE for your essay and hand it in with your essay.
- __ Your essay must be 3 pages or more, double spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font.
- __ Proofread and spell-check your work for correct conventions - punctuation, capitalization, spelling and grammar (reading it ALOUD often helps to catch errors)

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.

Rationale, Book Choices and Summaries – 10th Grade

10th Grade English centers on literature where characters experience marginalization, oppression, racism and/or prejudice. Over the course of the year, we will discuss writing from a variety of authors whose novels reflect global perspectives and universal themes. The novels listed below are written by diverse authors who offer a window into complex narratives that have similar thematic connections to the novel choices in the coming school year. Many of the summaries are adapted from an online source, goodreads.com.

1. The Dew Breaker- Edwidge Danticat (256 pages -Lexile unavailable)

We meet him late in life: a quiet man, a good father and husband, a fixture in his Brooklyn neighborhood, a landlord and barber with a terrifying scar across his face. As the book unfolds, moving seamlessly between Haiti in the 1960s and New York City today, we enter the lives of those around him, and learn that he has also kept a vital, dangerous secret. Edwidge Danticat's brilliant exploration of the "dew breaker"--or torturer--in an unforgettable story of love, remorse, and hope; of personal and political rebellions; and of the compromises we make to move beyond the most intimate brushes with history.

(Free version online: <https://www.you-books.com/book/E-Danticat/The-Dew-Breaker>)

2. Down These Mean Streets- by Piri Thomas (352 pages and 820 Lexile)

Piri Thomas' coming of age memoir on the streets of Spanish Harlem that recounts his experience of being born outsider: a Puerto Rican in English-speaking America; a dark-skinned morenito in a family that refused to acknowledge its African blood. Piri recounts his experiences that begin with his early adolescence growing up in El Barrio to his lock-up in Sing Sing for shooting at police officers at the age of 22. Thomas' compelling work shares his journey of harrowing tragedy and personal triumph.

3. In the Time of the Butterflies- by Julia Alvarez (352 pages and 910 Lexile)

This novel is based on the lives of the four Mirabal sisters (code name: "Mariposas," butterflies), three of whom were martyred in 1960 during the liberation of the Dominican Republic from the dictator Trujillo. Through the surviving sister, Dede, as well as memories of Minerva, Patria, and Maria Teresa, we discover the compelling forces behind each sister's role in the struggle for freedom. Though murder, torture, and imprisonment are ever-present, Alvarez wisely chooses to focus on the personal lives of these young wives and mothers, full of love, beauty, and, especially, hope.

4. **The Help- by Kathryn Stockett (544 pages and Lexile unknown)** Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women, mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends, view one another. Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step.
5. **Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden (434 pages 1000 Lexile)** – Chiyo lives in a tiny fishing village in Yoroido, but when her life capsizes quickly as her family circumstances change, she will no longer be the girl she once knew. She is forced to make drastic changes and choices as she journeys to Kyoto by way of a man she trusts, but shouldn't. Set during World War II in Japan, Chiyo eventually finds her way as Sayuri, a fictional geisha, whose clear grey eyes and love for the Chairman sets her on a destined path. She becomes educated in the art of being a geisha and attempts to earn her freedom by becoming the most successful geisha of her time; all while ensnaring the heart of the man she loves.
6. **Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt (452 pages Lexile unavailable)**- Imbued on every page with Frank McCourt's astounding humor and compassion. So begins the Pulitzer Prize winning memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy-- exasperating, irresponsible and beguiling-- does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank lives for his father's tales of Cuchulain, who saved Ireland, and of the Angel on the Seventh Step, who brings his mother babies. Perhaps it is a story that accounts for Frank's survival. Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors--yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance and remarkable forgiveness.
Free online version (<https://fliphtml5.com/sbyvq/trfx>)

Plagiarizing in **ANY CAPACITY**, will earn a zero, 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.