Due upon return to school - This assignment will count as a first grade of the quarter. Students who complete this assignment will be offered an opportunity for extra credit.

All books are available for purchase through the English Department for $12 each. Let your teacher know if you would like to purchase a book.

Read one of the following texts:

**Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich**
Privileged, educated journalist Barbara Ehrenreich goes undercover to discover the trials and tribulations of the working class. She travels to different locations and takes on different jobs, meeting those who make or don’t make ends meet.

**Mudbound by Hillary Jordan**
It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farm—a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura’s brother-in-law, is everything her husband is not—charming, handsome, and haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, has come home with the shine of a war hero. But no matter his bravery in defense of his country, he is still considered less than a man in the Jim Crow South. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion.

**The Color of Water by James McBride**
"The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother," is the autobiography and memoir of James McBride first published in 1995; it is also a tribute to his mother.

**The House of Broken Angels by Alberto Urrea**
In his final days, beloved and ailing patriarch Miguel Angel de La Cruz, affectionately called Big Angel, has summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday party. But as the party approaches, his mother, nearly one hundred, dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader. Among the guests is Big Angel's half brother, known as Little Angel, who must reckon with the truth that although he shares a father with his siblings, he has not, as a half gringo, shared a life.

Across two bittersweet days in their San Diego neighborhood, the revelers mingle among the palm trees and cacti, celebrating the lives of Big Angel and his mother, and recounting the many inspiring tales that have passed into family lore, the acts both ordinary and heroic that brought these citizens to a fraught and sublime country and allowed them to flourish in the land they have come to call home.
Complete the following:

5 - Vocabulary

- Select five words from the book that you do not know. For each word, write down the word, the context sentence, and the page number, and then do the following:
  - Based on the context or your prior knowledge, state what you think the word means.
  - Look up the dictionary definition and write it down. Were you right?
  - Where appropriate, include a synonym and antonym for the word.
  - Explain where you could see yourself using this word in the future.

4 - Literary Element

- Find four examples of the author’s use of literary elements (characterization, conflict, irony, mood, tone, symbolism, figurative language)
- Copy a quotation that illustrates the literary element.
- Provide explanations of your selections.

3 - Questions (3 in total)

- Pose a question you might have for the author, a question you may have about the text or a question that the author poses through the text. You need to articulate three questions in total.

2 - Passages

- Identify two passages that you find meaningful or that resonate with you. Note the page numbers of these passages. In writing, explain your choices.

1 - Research

- Find an article related to one topic/issue raised in your chosen summer read. Please bring the text to class or provide a working link to the document.