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Summer Reading Program SOPHOMORES: Grade 10 2020-2021

Please review this English project with your child. He or she should thoughtfully complete each of the tasks enclosed, since the project itself will serve as a baseline for analyzing your child's progress as the year unfolds.

The summer project is mandatory and due the first week of class, **Thursday, September, 10th 2020.**

TASK 1:

- As you read each book, annotate, or make notes in the margins of the text. If the book is borrowed from the library, keep a reader's notebook of your annotations, thoughts, inferences, questions, vocabulary, etc. Also take notes as you read on areas in the novel that will connect with your essay in TASK 2. Complete all notes in your **own** print or script – no typing or computer-generated text will be accepted. Your annotations and notes will also be counted as part of your grade

10th Grade Year-Long Understandings: Life tragedies, societal prejudices and stereotypes, as well as internal conflicts, all contribute to who we are. Our identity expresses not just how we are categorized and recognized by others, but truly how we recognize and see ourselves. One must learn how not to lose oneself when confronted with life's challenges, but instead learn to self-evolve and become the leader of one's journey.

10th Grade Year-Long Essential Questions:

- How do we express and define our identities and what obstacles contribute to this?
- What is the difference between how others define us and how we recognize and see ourselves?
- When confronted with life's challenges, how do we hold onto ourselves so that we can self-evolve and become the leaders of our own journeys?

TASK 2:

- You must choose two of the books listed below. Write an expository essay using one of the thematic year-long essential questions utilizing evidence from both books. The **minimum** paragraph format for your essay is as follows:

Introduction

1st Body: 1st evidence from Book 1

2nd Body: 2nd evidence from Book 1

3rd Body: 1st evidence from Book 2

4th Body: 2nd evidence from Book 2

Conclusion



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BOOK OPTIONS: Must choose TWO from this list

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir Growing Up Iranian in America

By: Firoozeh Dumas

Book Summary: In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.

The Joy Luck Club By: Amy Tan

Book Summary: Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue. With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

Black Boy By: Richard Wright

Book Summary: Richard Wright grew up in the woods of Mississippi amid poverty, hunger, fear, and hatred. He lied, stole, and raged at those around him; at six he was a "drunkard," hanging about in taverns. Surly, brutal, cold, suspicious, and self-pitying, he was surrounded on one side by whites who were either indifferent to him, pitying, or cruel, and on the other by blacks who resented anyone trying to rise above the common lot. *Black Boy* is Richard Wright's powerful account of his journey from innocence to experience in the Jim Crow South. It is at once an unashamed confession and a profound indictment—a poignant and disturbing record of social injustice and human suffering.

I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter By: Erika L. Sanchez

Book Summary: Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?