

Freshmen Summer Assignment

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL



Summer Assignment 2018-2019 Academic Year Incoming Grade 9

This summer's assignment, which will be collected upon your return to school, is all about your interests and should be enjoyable.

Task 1: Identify a social issue that concerns you (homelessness, social media, depression, cyberbullying, etc.). In a well written 1-2 page response, discuss why this issue is important to the well-being of society and relevant to today's youth. Then, find (3) news stories that focus on your chosen issue. Read them and identify the arguments/solutions being proposed. Select quotes from the articles that support your analysis. Be sure to use evidence found in the articles. You should use the handouts attached to help you complete the assignment.

Task 2: Read one book from the reading list provided and write a literary essay that identifies the thematic message presented by the author. You should discuss how the author gets his message across to the readers by analyzing the characters and plot structures. Examples of possible themes include but are not limited to: man versus nature, coming of age, darkness and light, disillusionment and dreams, power and corruption etc.

Task 3: Lastly familiarize yourself with the UHHS Road Map. You will be held responsible for each item on the road map under 9th grade. We are really excited to see your mind in action.

Enjoy the rest of your summer safely and please keep reading below for your summer assignment! this assignment is due September 5, 2018.

Hazel Joseph-Roseboro, Principal

Reading List

Fiction
F

Nonfiction
NF

Graphic Novel
GN

Science Fiction
SF

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Ender's Game</i> , Orson Scott Card | SF |
| Set in the future, the children of Earth must fight for their future, a New York Times Bestseller. | |

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>The Lovely Bones</i> , Alice Sebold | F |
| Narrated by a murder victim looking down from heaven, a family's story in the wake of the crime unfolds. | |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Parable of the Sower</i> , Octavia Butler | SF |
| When unattended environmental and economic crises lead to social chaos, not even gated communities are safe. In a night of fire and death Lauren Olamina, a minister's young daughter, loses her family and home and ventures out into the unprotected American landscape. But what begins as a flight for survival soon leads to something much more: a startling vision of human destiny... and the birth of a new faith. | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , Ernest Gaines | F |
| Two men, a condemned criminal and a reluctant teacher, share lessons about dignity in this moving story set in Louisiana. | |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>1984</i> , George Orwell | SF |
| 1984 presents an unblinking portrait of life lived under constant surveillance and stands as one of the great dystopian satires of the 20th century | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Down These Mean Streets</i> , Piri Thomas | F |
| In his memoir Thomas navigates El Barrio, a neighborhood of Spanish Harlem. | |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced</i> , Nujood Ahi | NF |
| Sold off by her impoverished family at the age of 10, Nujood found the courage to run away. With the help of an activist lawyer, sympathetic judges, and the international press, she divorced her husband and | |

returned home.

Pigeon English, Stephen Kelman

F

Recently emigrated from Ghana with his sister and mother to London's enormous housing projects, Harri is pure curiosity and ebullience: obsessed with gummy candy, a friend to the pigeon who visits his balcony, quite possibly the fastest runner in his school, and clearly also fast on the trail of a murderer.

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game, Michael Lewis

NF

The author explains how the Oakland Athletics built a successful team despite one of the smallest payrolls in baseball.

Dreams From My Father, Barack Obama

NF

This memoir reveals the first African-American president's childhood, teenage and college years.

Silent Tears: A Journey of Hope in a Chinese Orphanage, Kay Bratt

NF

In 2003, Kay Bratt's life changed dramatically. A wife and mother of two girls in South Carolina, Bratt relocated her family to rural China to support her husband as he took on a new management position for his American employer. Bratt began volunteering at the local orphanage. Within months, her simple desire to make use of her time transformed into a heroic crusade to improve the living conditions and minimize the unnecessary deaths of Chinese orphans.

A Game of Thrones (A Song of Fire and Ice, Book 1), George R. R. Martin

F

In the frozen wastes to the north of Winterfell, sinister and supernatural forces are mustering.

Like Water for Chocolate, Laura Esquivel

F

A Mexican girl learns the secrets of her mother's kitchen and heart in this favorite of the magic realism genre.

Pointe Claw, Amber J. Keyser

F

Jessie Vale dances in an elite ballet program. When Jessie is cast in an animalistic avant-garde production, her careful composure cracks wide open. Meanwhile, her friend Dawn McCormick's world is full of holes. She wakes in strange places, bruised, battered and unable to speak. These childhood friends are both

running out of time. Jessie has one shot at her ballet dream. Dawn's blackouts are getting worse. At every turn, they crash into the many ways girls are watched, judged, used and discarded. Should they play it safe or go feral?

Above the Dreamless Dead: World War I in Poetry and Comics, Various Authors, Chris Duffy (Editor)

GN

As the Great War dragged on and its catastrophic death toll mounted, a new artistic movement found its feet in the United Kingdom. The Trench Poets, as they came to be called, were soldier-poets dispatching their verse from the front lines. Known for its rejection of war as a romantic or noble enterprise, and its plainspoken condemnation of the senseless bloodshed of war, Trench Poetry soon became one of the most significant literary moments of its decade.

Looking For Alaska, John Green

F

This book richly deserves the awards it has won. It's gorgeously written -- passionate, hilarious, moving, thought-provoking, character-driven, and literary. The characters may often behave badly, but they are vividly real, complex, and beautifully drawn -- and their stories can help readers start dealing with some big topics, like self discovery and loss. This is a hard one to put down. Since new chapters don't start on new pages, there's always a temptation to read just a little bit further. For the first half at least, readers will be grinning all the way -- and in the end, they will be moved, maybe even to tears.