

**NEW ROCHELLE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**11TH GRADE SUMMER READING**

Your eleventh-grade English teachers look forward to meeting you next year! In preparation, this summer you will read *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan. *Mudbound* is a gripping tale about Laura McAllan, a woman whose husband, Henry, moves her to a desolate farm in the Mississippi Delta. In the midst of her struggles to raise her children in this isolated environment, Jamie McAllan, Laura's handsome and charming brother-in-law, returns from World War II. Also returning from the war is Ronsel Jackson, the eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm. Ronsel is a war hero who fought valiantly for his country, yet he must face the ugly racism of the Jim Crow South where he is treated as less than a man. Laura finds herself drawn to her brother-in-law as Ronsel and Jaimie become friends despite the dangerous disapproval of the town. This is a novel about the dire consequences of forbidden friendship and love--you won't be able to put it down!

During the first week of school, you will take a reading check on *Mudbound*. In addition, your class will meet in literary circles to discuss the book. In a literature circle each student performs a different role. To prepare for these roles, we would like you to do the following:

**5, 4, 3, 2, 1**

**5** Word Wizard

Look up and define **five advanced vocabulary words** from the book that your group will not know. Along with each word, include the context sentence, the page number, and the appropriate definition of the word.

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### Discussion Director

Write **four questions** that will guide a thoughtful group discussion and keep the group on task. What were you wondering about while you were reading? Did you have questions about what was happening? What larger issues were raised in the book that the group should discuss?

For example, here are some questions you might want to ask about *Macbeth* in a literature circle:

- Is Lady Macbeth a more evil character than her husband and, if so, why?
- Are our lives predetermined by fate (like the witches' prophecies) or do we have free will?



### Connector

Find **three connections**. These can be between the book and you and/or between the book and the wider world. This means connecting the reading to your own past experiences, to happenings in school or our community, to stories in the news, to historical events, or to other books. (Think text-to-self, text-to-world, text-to-text.)

## 2 Literary Luminary

Highlight **two special sections or quotations** in the text for your group to discuss. Summarize the passage or write the quotation (include page numbers), then explain why you selected each one.

## 1 Researcher

Locate background information (primary document?) on **one topic** related to the book. This may include the history, culture, or geography of the book's setting (place and time). Attach the article if appropriate.

