

Hello students and parents,

This paper copy does not have the links, obviously, so please email me at:

jflavin@bcps.org

I will send you the digital copy so you can follow links to get started.



Mr. Flavin

2021-22 GT 10 | Summer Reading

Hello 10th grade GT English students,

My name is Mr. Flavin, and I will be your teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. I look forward to learning more about who you are and a great year of expanding our minds.



Welcome to GT English 10 Summer Reading!

Table of Contents

- Part One: Choose a fictional novel
- Part Two: Research current events (2010-present)
- Part Three: Research two pieces of art

This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your reading and analysis skills and will help you prepare for our class next fall. The novel options are offered considering our nation's heightened battle for racial equality following the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd.

If you have questions regarding the assignment or class, please email me, Mr. Flavin, at jflavin@bcps.org.

For this summer, you will need to complete write-ups for 1 current event and 2 pieces of

art that relate to your chosen novel (from the reading list below). Then you will complete an in-school project at the beginning of the year.

Remember: You are in a GT class and expectations are high. I have chosen this specific assignment because it is relevant to life in America -- and to give you options. Read the sample current events article, and please research online descriptions of the novel(s) in order to find one that best suits your interests. It will make your experience more enjoyable.

Please don't wait until the last minute to complete the assignment. It is due the week of October 1st, and I will not be accepting assignments after this date.

Part One: Choose a novel (and one optional) from the following black American writers.

Below is a list of 10 books that are highly regarded as works that address races relations in America. Although they are fictional, each of them offers historical background on black life in America. You may choose another black American author not listed, but ask me about it first.

IMPORTANT: Before selecting a book, I will need your parent or guardian to email me that they are comfortable with your choice. You cannot start without it (includes the optional).

- Click on author's name for a brief description of her/him (you may have to scroll down).
- Click on the title to link to an inexpensive physical version of the physical book.
- Click on the PDF link if you want to read it online.
- You can also get it for free at your local library. Click here > [Baltimore County Libraries](#)

Classics

- [Maya Angelou](#) | [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#) | [PDF/Online version](#)
- [James Baldwin](#) | [Go Tell It on a Mountain](#) | [PDF/Online version](#)
- [Ralph Ellison](#) | [Invisible Man](#) | [PDF/Online Version](#)
- [Richard Wright](#) | [Black Boy](#) | [PDF/Online Version](#)
- [Toni Morrison](#) | [Beloved](#) | PDF unavailable.

Contemporary

- [Wes Moore](#) | [The Other Wes Moore](#) | [PDF/Online Version](#)
- [Audre Lorde](#) | [Coal \(poetry\)](#) | PDF unavailable
- [Ernest J. Gaines](#) | [A Lesson Before Dying](#) | PDF unavailable
- [Jamaica Kincaid](#) | [Annie John](#) | [PDF/Online version](#)
- [August Wilson](#) | [Fences \(a script for a play\)](#) | [PDF/Online version](#)

While you're reading, you should take notes on key aspects of the writing.

Part Two: Current Events

Here Are 4 Website Options (you may use other credible websites as well):

<https://www.npr.org/sections/national/> | <https://time.com/section/us/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/us> | <https://www.ap.org/en-us/>

Assignment: Choose your articles carefully. This is an opportunity to learn more about the themes or events in your book that intrigue YOU. The article must focus on a topic covered in your book. Here's a sample article on [systemic racism](#).

Complete a ~1-page response (handwritten or typed) covering the following in-depth:

1. Biographical information: title, author, date of publication, source
2. Summary of the article (2-4 sentences)
3. How does this alter or reinforce the way that you saw the theme/issue? (2-4 sentences)
4. Connect this article to the text you're reading this summer. This connection could be found in theme, conflict, character or another way. (5+ sentences)

Part Three: Research Related Visual Art

Visual Art includes any of the following: paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, drawing, music (audio), movies, plays, and others.

Here are examples of art that relates to the novel, *A Beautiful Struggle*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, which is about a father's struggle in West Baltimore to raise children into a safe adulthood. The story talks about how his life there was both beautiful and ugly at the same time. In the artwork below, it relates to Coates' novel because there are both beautiful and unpleasant images.



You have three options once you've researched related art to your novel:

1. Create your own art to represent what the author of your novel is trying to say. Any art whatsoever.
2. Choose your own two from the Internet (like I did above) and make comparisons in writing. Include at least one piece of evidence for each piece of art.
3. Create one piece of art and research the second one (one of each).

Tying It All Together

Your project will be a culmination of your efforts in completing Steps One through Three. I will try to pair you up with another person who has read the same book and completed their work.

You may choose any of the following ways to complete the project and show your understanding of the novel and how it relates to other mediums (art, reviews, articles).

- PowerPoint/Prezi
- Create a video
- Speech
- Audio

- Music
- A play
- Write your own short story
- Create an activity for the class

If you choose a format that includes words, like a PowerPoint or short story, then that will be your final project. However, if you choose a video or music, you will need to write an explanation of how your work all ties together.

More specific details will be available either when you ask for them this summer or at the beginning of the school year.