

# Overlea High School

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Dear OHS Students, Parents/Guardians:

Happy summer! Welcome to the Overlea High School English 9 GT/AA program. Over the summer you will be required to read one work of fiction and complete a short project. We encourage parents and guardians to participate in the book selection process with your students in order to meet individual needs. The book may be acquired at local libraries (see below for online check out details\*), bookstores, online, or attached in the PDF provided.

**Title:** *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros OR *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

**Due Date:** This assignment is due by class time on 10/1/2020 or 10/2/2020. Themes and events from the texts will be included during marking period one instruction. Only original projects created by students enrolled in my classes will be scored and included as minor grades in the first marking period.

**Assignment:** After reading the *House on Mango Street* OR *Refugee*, each student is to create an original found poem that reflects a theme from the text, and an original paragraph explaining why he/she selected the theme from his/her original poem. Below is an example for you.

## Step One Directions for Student Original Poem:

1. Select eight quotations from the text that addresses a particular theme. Each quotation should take its own line in the poem and include the page number at the end of the line. Be certain to include punctuation as needed.
2. Of those eight quotations, choose the most important one line to repeat three times.
3. Next, arrange the ten total lines in a way that makes sense to the reader and sounds good.
4. Select an original title for your poem and include it at the top of your page.

## Step Two Directions for Student Original Paragraph:

1. Begin the original paragraph with a topic sentence which includes the name of the text and author, and your selected theme.
2. Next, write at least three original sentences explaining **why you chose that theme** using evidence from the text to support your ideas. Exact quotes from the text are not needed in the paragraph; however, they should be referenced from lines written from your original poem.
3. Add a concluding sentence to wrap up your ideas.
4. Check spelling and grammar in your paragraph.

**Format:** The poem should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font on a single piece of white paper (or handwritten neatly). Be sure to have your name in the upper right-hand corner also in 12-point Times New Roman font.

**This assignment should be completed using the template provided. An example has been completed for you here.** This example was created from *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare.

### **Star-Crossed Lovers**

I strike quickly being moved (5)  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean (5)  
Oh, I am fortune's fool! (123)  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name (69)  
What's in a name? (69)  
Oh, I am fortune's fool! (123)  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life (5)  
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love (237)  
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head (239)  
Oh, I am fortune's fool! (123)

### **Original Paragraph**

*Romeo and Juliet* is a play written by William Shakespeare and includes the theme of *love*. From the text, I chose to focus on how love can make you consider doing foolish things. To show this in my poem, I included, "Oh, I am fortune's fool!" as the line I repeated. Repeating the line brings attention to the reader and theme of the play. I do not know anyone who would "deny thy father and refuse thy name," but Romeo considered it because of his love for Juliet. That one line demonstrates how much Romeo loves Juliet- that he is willing to give up who he and all that he has as a Montague for her. *Love* is a theme in *Romeo and Juliet* that helped me understand why some people do foolish things for love.

### **Access to BCPL**

Do you get bored sometimes during the summer? Did you know that you can check out books electronically from the Baltimore County Public Library? Books are available in book, e-book, or audiobook from the Baltimore County Public Library with a library account. Readers may use the app Overdrive to connect to BCPL and borrow e-books and audiobooks to be sent to an electronic device. Our partnership with the Baltimore County Public Library allows BCPS students to borrow up to five books with a BCPS student account. For more information about this program please visit:

<https://www.bcpl.info/youth/student-accounts.html>.

We encourage all members of the school community to pick up a book and read this summer! If you have questions about the English 9 GT/AA summer reading project, let me know. I can be reached at [hslybaugh@bcps.org](mailto:hslybaugh@bcps.org). I will be checking my email from time to time over summer break.

Sincerely,

*Hope Slaybaugh*

Hope Slaybaugh  
[hslybaugh@bcps.org](mailto:hslybaugh@bcps.org)  
GT/AA 9 English Teacher  
Grade 9 Team Leader

ATTM: *House on Mango Street* (pdf) by Sandra Cisneros  
ATTM: *Refugee* (pdf) by Alan Gratz