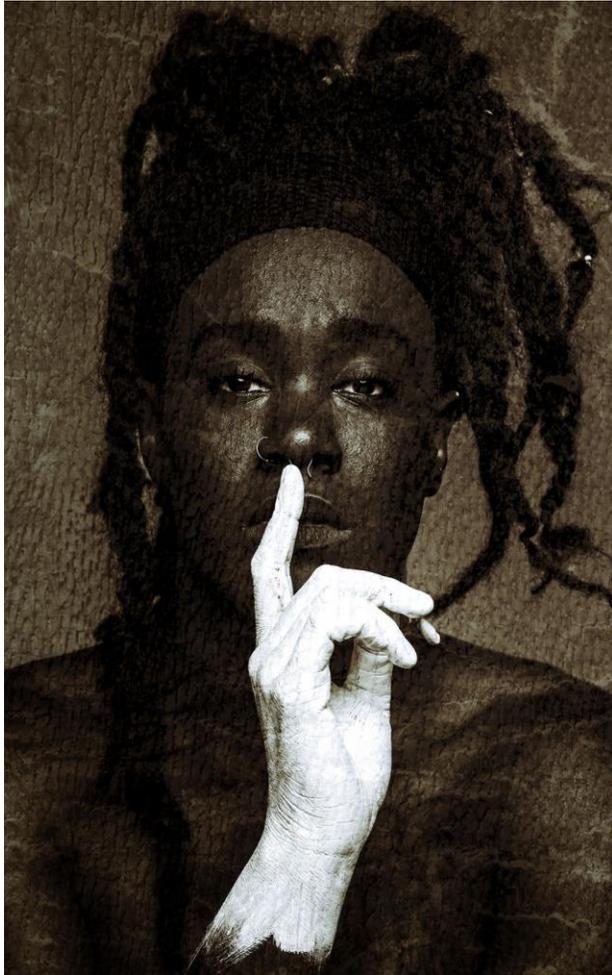


## 2020-21 GT 10 | Summer Reading

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

1. Choose a fictional novel
2. Read two book reviews
3. Choose a word/literary lens
4. Find evidence
5. Research current events (2010 to 2020)
6. Research two pieces of art
7. Tie it all together

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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](mailto:jflavin@bcps.org).

Also, please join our Edmodo class. [Click here](#). I invited you, but just in case, here's the join code: **nrjmnj**

^ Photographer: [Jahi Chikwendiu](#)

For this summer, you will need to complete write-ups for 2 book reviews, 2 current events, 2 pieces of art, and 1 novel from the reading list below. You will relate your novel to the current events as well as completing 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 book review, sample current events article, and please research descriptions of the novel(s) that interests you. It will make your experience more enjoyable.

Again, 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. Each of them offers historical background on black life in America, although they are fiction. You may choose another black American author not listed, but please run it by me 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, and that 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. See **Part 3: Choose Word/Literary Lens**.

## Part 2: Two Book Reviews

Before you begin researching reviews for your book, I recommend you Google search *AND* YouTube the author, the book, and view or read about them. Give yourself a chance to pick the right book for you. Watch James Baldwin describe the [black experience](#) in 1963, for example.

When searching for a book review, try to read a few before writing a response for it. Here is an example of a book review in *The Guardian*: [Things Fall Apart](#).

INSTRUCTIONS: 1) Read, highlight, and annotate both reviews. 2) In a sentence or two, what is the plot of the story? 3) What does the reviewer say the story is about (that is, what's important about the story being reviewed)? 4) Reflect on whether it seems like a book you'd be interested in.

### Part Three: Choose a Word/Lens

A critical lens is a way of looking at a particular work of literature by focusing on style choices, plot devices, and character interactions and how they show a certain theme. It is a common literary analysis technique. In this case, you will do the following:

1. Read the reviews of your book and learn as much about it as you can before reading it.
2. Think of one word that you believe sums up the point of the book. You may change this word half-way through the reading.
3. For example: *Romeo and Juliet* could be summed up by “love” or “forbidden” or “rivalry.” This is not a critical lens in the formal sense, but you should read your book with this word in mind.
4. Write down your word and then look up 8 synonyms for that word, and then you’ll have 9 total. They should each fit the overall point of the book. Here are synonyms for rivalry: conflict, confrontation, contest, duel, face-off, grapple, strife, dogfight.
5. During the school year, we will have an activity surrounding your 9 words.

### Part Four: Find Evidence

Write down or copy/paste at **least 10 quotes that support your singular word choice.**

For example, if you chose “rivalry” for *Romeo and Juliet*, your quote could be, *Abraham: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?* (Abraham is walking past his rival; “biting one’s thumb” is like giving someone the finger.)

You can write/type these on the same paper you wrote your nine (9) words on.

### Part Five: Current Events

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. Obviously, the article should 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 change 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 Six: 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).

## Part Seven: Tying It All Together

Your project will be a culmination of your efforts in completing Steps One through Six. 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
- Speech
- Create a video
- 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 want 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.