

OVERLEA HIGH SCHOOL Summer 2022 Reading Assignment Grade 12

Your summer assignment will consist of two parts:

❖ Read the text linked here: [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#). *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a 1969 autobiography describing the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma.

❖ Then answer the following analysis questions. For those students who participate, this assignment will be collected the first week in October of 2022.

Analysis Questions:

Summarizing:

What are the important events in that took place throughout the text? What makes them important? How do these events impact the characters? What changes in plot, character or theme did you notice in the reading? What are you thinking about as you read?

Perplexing Analyses:

What is the author's purpose in creating ambiguity toward a setting, character or event? What role does the structure of the novel play in creating either complexity or ambiguity? What are the characters debating, struggling with? How are they quarrelling with themselves or the world around them? How are relationships defined in the book?

Passage Analyses: Choose five passages that you believe to be the most significant; answer the questions below using those specific passages.

Why is a particular section of the text important? What information is revealed that will inform the reader's understanding of the whole novel? What new or deeper understanding can be gained from this passage? If you could, what question would you ask the author?