

OVERLEA HIGH SCHOOL
Summer 2021 Reading Assignment
Grade 12

The Overlea High School English Department encourages students to become life-long readers and learners by asking them to read during non-instructional time. Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills and enjoy a book that they have selected. Our philosophy is that summer reading should be both pleasurable and thought-provoking. With that in mind, we have provided a range of selections reflecting student interests. This packet includes a list of literature for students to select from (links to PDFs for content are also available) and instructions for responding to the reading. We will continue to ask for student feedback to assure that student interests are represented.

We believe that students who read over the summer:

- Maintain or improve reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- Broaden their experience, knowledge and understanding of topics that are of personal interest.
- Experience personal and academic success by developing their literacy skills.
- Become lifelong readers by choosing a book and reading at their own pace.

Your summer assignment will consist of two parts:

- ❖ **Choose one of the texts below to read.**
- ❖ **Then answer the following analysis questions.**

For those students who participate, this assignment will be collected the first week in October of 2021. In addition to the assignment, students will have an opportunity to partake in literature circles, which will allow for deeper discussion of their chosen text.

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?

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Reading List - Choose ONE ☺

All readers need a variety of books from which to choose. Some books may contain mature subject matter. We encourage parents to have conversations with their child about book choices.

Malcolm Gladwell's "The Tipping Point"

The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell is a book about how small actions at the right time, in the right place, and with the right people can create a "tipping point" for anything from a product to an idea to a trend. Gladwell is not a sociologist, but he relies on sociological studies, and those from other disciplines within the social sciences to write articles and books that both the general public and social scientists find fascinating and worthwhile. According to Gladwell, the "tipping point" is "that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire."

http://courses.washington.edu/art166sp/documents/Spring2012/projects/project_2/The_Tipping_Point.pdf

*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.

<http://www.ompersonal.com.ar/regalos/I%20Know%20Why%20the%20Caged%20Bird%20Sings%20-%20Maya%20Angelou.pdf>

