



Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 9th graders,

Neil Gaiman, author of many wonderful books, says, *A book is a dream you hold in your hands*. At Convent & Stuart Hall, we encourage dreams, both big and small. We want our students to exercise their imaginations, to travel to far off places, to be excited by everything that life has to offer - and so we have created a summer reading list for you. **You are required to read one book and choose at least one from a list we have compiled.** The required reading will be used as your first text in English class next year, so **please buy the paperback and bring it to school in August.**

Summer reading ought to be enjoyable, so we chose books we think you might like based on the overarching theme for 9th grade English, **Connection and Disconnection**. Make sure to read the synopsis of each book before you choose one. You can also read a few pages of each to see whether it matches your mood and your vocabulary. If you prefer to read novels not on this list, feel free. Also feel free to read [many or](#) all the books on this list!

Required:

- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds (bring paperback to class)

+ Student Choice of ONE or more of

- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz
- *Fresh Ink* by L.R. Giles (ed.)
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Parttime Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *I'm Not your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez
- *The Way to Rainy Mountain* by N. Scott Momaday
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- *Kira Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now* by Dana Davis
- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas

In addition, we would like you to **keep a journal** of your reading process and responses. On the next page, you will find directions for this. Please bring this journal to your first English class in August.

Reading Journal:

Directions. As we start the year, we want to learn about how you read and what you find interesting, boring, challenging, etc.. As you begin to read the required and/or optional novels, respond in writing (digital or handwritten) to the prompts below.

Reading Process**(Respond to TWO of these questions)**

At the top of each response, write the book's title and author.

1. Describe any steps you took prior to beginning to read your book. Why did you choose the book? How did you preview it once you were pretty sure you were going to read it? Did you make any predictions about the story or ask any questions? What preparatory steps did you take before reading?
2. Where and when do you read? What works or doesn't work well about our choices (concerning place and time of day)?
3. Do you get distracted when you read? If not, what keeps you engaged? If you do, how do you refocus on your reading?
4. Do you stop, go back, and reread at any point? When do you do this? If you don't, why don't you?
5. What do you do when you read unfamiliar vocabulary? Do you skip it, use context clues, look up words? When do you decide to do these various strategies and how effective are they?
6. What, if anything, do you notice you do after you finish a chapter or section? For example, do you summarize the main idea in your mind or on paper? Are you writing things down as you read? Doodling?

Reading Response to Jason Reynolds' *Long Way Down***(Respond to ONE of these questions)**

1. While reading this book, what grabbed your attention?
2. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
3. Did the book change your thinking in any way? Did it change the way you will deal with people or situations?
4. Is there an important question that came up as you read this book?
5. Did the book introduce you to any important facts, ideas, or issues?
6. Did the author(s) leave anything out that you consider important?
7. Is there something that you want to criticize or disagree with?

8. Is there anything in your personal experiences that resonates with or clashes with this reading?
9. Does this book remind you of another book you've read? How so?

Creative Response to Literature

After reading one book from the reading list: choose ONE of the following responses

- a. Create a comic-strip version of a portion of the book you are reading
- b. Write a short story, poem, or song in response to a book you read.
- c. Identify the most memorable visual image(s) from the text and recreate that imagery in another visual medium (drawing, painting, dance, photography, short film, costume design, etc).
- d. Design your own creative response.

We wish you a healthy and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sharanya.naik@sacredsfs.org.

On behalf of the English Department,

Sharanya Naik
Studies in Literature and English Language
Department Chair