



DEPAUL COLLEGE PREP
FR. GORDON CAMPUS

English Summer Reading Guide:
English II (Both Levels) - Incoming Sophomores

Instructions:

- Choose ONE book from the list below, and read it before the first day of school.
- While reading your chosen book, use the questions below to guide your thinking and understanding of the text.
- We encourage you to annotate the text, using the questions as guidance. Doing this while reading is the best way to think deeply about the questions and engage with the text.
- On one of the first days of school, you will write an in-class essay related to one of the questions listed below. You will be allowed to use your book and any annotations to help you with the essay.

List of Book Choices (physical book or iBook):

- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Ostrich Boys* by Keith Gray
- *Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
- *Warcross* by Marie Lu

Questions to Guide Reading and Annotating:

Character

- Who is emerging as a major character?
- Which characters appear to be growing or changing?
- Which characters appear to stay the same most of the time?
- What motivates the major characters to do what they do?
- When has a major character surprised you with his/her actions?
- When has a character made a discovery or a realization about him/herself or the world he/she lives in?

Topic

- What issues does the book make the reader think about?
- What ideas appear regularly or with a recurring pattern to them?
- When has someone said or done something in the book that felt like it was part of a larger “life lesson”?

Author’s Choices - Literary Elements

- Are there objects, titles, or actions that feel like they are representations of something larger than their literal value? What could they be representing?
- Does a setting or an environment ever reflect a tone or an emotion that could be occurring internally in one or more of the characters?
- Does the author describe something in a way that suggests he/she is making a comment about life in general?