



# SHADY SIDE

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## ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
500 Squaw Run Road East  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
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May 2021

Dear Rising Form II Students:

In Form II English, we center our discussions and writing around the concept of social justice. This topic will guide our process, and we will begin our year with a text which addresses how justice relates to poverty and to the environment. For our first all-form text (a book that the whole grade reads), I am asking you to please read the nonfiction text, [Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned a Nation](#) by Candy J. Cooper and Marc Aronson. This text explores the relationship between opportunities and circumstances, and I believe that it will change how you see the world. Many of us take small privileges, even clean water, for granted.

Please read this book carefully. As you read, please highlight quotes that relate to the central themes of the English classes at Shady Side Academy Middle School: identity, empathy, and justice. I would like to see you highlight at least ten quotes in this book, and I will be checking your work in August. When we return to school, we will be discussing the book in English class as well as in other classes. Please purchase a copy of the text, (ISBN: 978-1547602322) so that you can mark your book and reference the book during our discussions.

*You are also required to read an additional three books from the Form II Summer Reading List. You may not read more than one graphic novel; otherwise, you are free to choose three books from anywhere on the list. Ms. Guering and I have carefully selected books that we feel will benefit your personal and academic growth. We hope that you will find enjoyment, engagement, and appropriate challenges in your selections. If you would like to read more than three books, please challenge yourself appropriately!*

You will find a link to a survey to complete for each of your three choice books. Please print a survey for each of the three books and complete it thoroughly and thoughtfully. Use complete sentences and create original, focused writing responses. You will need to bring these three completed surveys with you to your first English class in August. Please note (all students): you do not have to complete a survey for *Poisoned Water*. Also, you may find it best to read *Poisoned Water* last (in August) so that it is fresh in your memory.

To help you summon up all this information, the Form II Summer Reading List is available at [www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo). It can also be viewed through the Parent Portal and on the page [www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome) for newly enrolled families.

I am eager to discuss these books with you when we return to school. It is my sincere hope that you will gain new insights into our world by reading some of these fantastic pieces of literature. May you enjoy the learning process, and may the thrill of a new book make these months memorable.

Here's to a beautiful, book-filled summer!

See you in August,  
Mrs. MacRae  
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Form II English