

Summer Reading and Engagement

7th & 8th Grade

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

[Amazon Link](#)

**Note: Please read the original novel in verse, NOT the graphic novel.

Write 200-300 words for each question. Your teacher will make a dropbox on Managebac before the start of the school year:

1. Why do you think the author has written this novel in verse form?
2. A majority of the book takes place in an elevator. Why has the author used an elevator as his setting? Think of what an elevator's function is! Think of the book's title to help you answer this question!
3. Every good story has a conflict and the conflict is often about the book's main character. Can you identify the main conflict in *Long Way Down* and how it relates to its main character, Will?

9th and 10th Grade

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

[Amazon Link](#)

Write 300-400 words for each question. Your teacher will make a dropbox on Managebac before the start of the school year:

1. Analyze the author's use of setting (time/place).
2. Analyze the structure of the novel and the author's decision to use short story as a medium.
3. Reflect on the thematic implications of identity in the novel.

11th and 12th Grade

Drinking Coffee Elsewhere by Z.Z. Packer

[Amazon Link](#)

Write 400-500 words for each question. Your teacher will make a dropbox on Managebac before the start of the school year:

1. Discuss a recurrent theme running through the eight stories.
2. Discuss a revealing dynamic between two characters.
3. Discuss the significance of the setting in one of the stories (choose a different from the story you used to answer question 2).