



Bishop McGuinness English Department Summer Reading Assignment

COURSE: English 2

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REQUIRED READING: Select and read one text from the following list. You can procure the text at a local library, book store, or online; *Things Fall Apart* and *The Bean Trees* are available to check out through Bishop McGuinness English Department.

Please explore the brief descriptions of each book below. Choose the book you would like to read, then please follow the instructions for the assignment listed on this document.

Note: over the summer, if you decide to transfer out of Pre-AP English into on-level English II, you need to read a book from this list to be prepared for the first week of school in August.

BOOK LIST:

1. *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

- a. When Antonio Márez is almost seven years old, his grandmother, Ultima, comes to stay with him and his family in their small house in Guadalupe, New Mexico. The family has taken in Ultima out of a respect for her healing powers, her knowledge of plant lore, and her long use of folk magic in service of the community. Motifs seen in the novel: family, dreams, education/learning, tolerance/understanding.

2. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

- a. Maya Angelou describes her childhood as a precocious but insecure black girl in the American South during the 1930s and subsequently in California during the 1940s. Maya's parents divorce when she is only three years old and ship Maya and her older brother, Bailey, to live with their paternal grandmother in rural Stamps, Arkansas. Annie, whom they call Momma, runs the only store in the

black section of Stamps and becomes the central moral figure in Maya's childhood. Motifs seen in the novel: strong women, literature, names.

3. ***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver (Available to be checked out from the English Department)**
 - a. Marietta leaves her home in Kentucky and moves to Tucson, Arizona. On the way to Tucson, she's forced to become the guardian of an abused child whom she names Turtle. Marietta attempts to build a new life in Tucson, but when the authorities realize she isn't Turtle's legal guardian, she's forced to return to Oklahoma and search for Turtle's birth parents. Motifs seen in the novel: rebirth, motherhood, community.
4. ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**
 - a. *The Joy Luck Club* contains sixteen interwoven stories about conflicts between Chinese immigrant mothers and their American-raised daughters. Motifs seen in the novel: control over one's destiny, sacrifices for love, sexism.

Assignments:

1. **Book Writing Assignment:**
 - a. **1. Make copies of your three favorite or meaningful passages (at least two pages in length) from the novel you chose. (You may either make a copy on a copy machine or take a picture on your phone or ipad; if you take a picture, you will need to print it out to hand in). Copy the first three pages of Chapter 1, then a 2-page passage from the middle of the novel, and a 2-page passage from the end. Annotate each passage and bring these copies to the first day of class.**
 - i. **Annotation instructions:**
 1. **Number the paragraphs**
 2. **Circle words that stand out or seem important/powerful/beautiful language**
 3. **Underline details that stand out to you**
 4. **Respond (in the margins) with your thoughts, ideas, and questions you have about the passage**
 - b. **Be ready to do an in-class writing exercise or activity within the first week of school pertaining to the summer reading.**
2. **If you need to check out of a copy of one of the books available from the school, you will need to do so before May 10 of this school year.**

Submission Requirements:

1. **Book Writing Assignment: Bring to the first day of class: printed, annotated copies (as listed in 1a) of your chosen three passages. If you bought a copy of the book (either hard copy or on your ipad), bring it as well.**

Due Date: First Day of School (for both assignments)

Assessment: Be prepared for a writing exercise and/or group activities within the first few days of school.

Other information: Please contact Ms. Pankratz-West (cpankratz@bmchs.org), Ms. Wagner (swagner@bmchs.org), or Ms. Williams (kwilliams@bmchs.org) with questions about the summer reading assignments for English II.

*****Note: Students must be aware that if they drop a class within the 1st week of school, they must have read the required summer reading for their new class.**