

## English 12 Summer Reading Expectations

Over the course of the summer, you will read two texts. The first is required; the second may be any one of the titles from the list below. The choice titles have all been selected by faculty members. Beyond the assignment, you should be prepared to discuss both texts the week we return to school.

Required:

- ***Parable of the Sower*** by Octavia Butler  
In an America suffering a slow economic and ecological collapse, the adults in Lauren's gated community are clinging to the world as they knew it, but teenaged Lauren is planning for the future.

Choice:

- Choose one text from the full list below.

### ASSIGNMENT

In conjunction with each text, you will complete **two *Dialectic Journals*** (*one for each text*). The journals will be due on the first day of school.

#### ***Dialectic Journal - Directions***

- Purchase a spiral bound notebook or composition book OR create a computerized response journal. (You do not need to purchase two separate journals - use the same one for each text.)
- Make a note of the number of pages in your novel.
- Divide your novel into ten (10) equal sections and write a response for every section. (e.g.: 253 pages ...  $253/10= 25$ . This example shows you should write a response every 25 pages.)
- Draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
- Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE
- In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have TEN.

#### ***How do you choose what passages to write down?***

Passages become important if

- i. Details in the passage seem important to you.
- ii. You learn something significant about a character.
- iii. You recognize a pattern (recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols, descriptions, details, etc.).
- iv. You agree or disagree with something a character says or does.
- v. You find an interesting or potentially significant quotation.
- vi. You notice something important or relevant about the author's writing style.
- vii. You notice effective use of literary devices.
- viii. You think that the passage contributes to or reveals a theme in the novel.

In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**

Each RESPONSE must be at least 50 words.

**Directions:**

Select **ONE** of the texts to read from the Faculty Picks list. You must be ready to have a meaningful discussion about the text.

Be prepared to discuss the following:

- Did you like the text? / What resonated? / What challenged?
- What was your favorite part? / Favorite character?
- Any literary or stylistic observations?
- If you were to rate the text out of 5 stars, how would you rate it and why?

Below is a shortlist of the texts. See the PDF for a visual and overview of each.

**Mr. Zimmerman's Picks**

- *Code of the Woosters* by PG Wodehouse
- *Collected Fictions* by Jorge Luis Borges

**Ms. Corrigan's Picks**

- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel* by Jamie Ford
- *Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.E. Schwab

**Mr. McGivern's Picks**

- *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride
- *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann
- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart
- *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East* by Scott Anderson

**Ms. Back's Picks**

- *Built* by Roma Agrawal
- *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars* by Dava Sobel
- *Math with Bad Drawings: Illuminating the Ideas that Shape Our Reality* by Ben Orlin
- *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil de Grasse

**Dr. Shaull's Picks**

- *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K LeGuin
- *Circe* by Madeleine Miller
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

**Dr. Bridge's Picks**

- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen
- *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

**Mrs. DiMatteo's Picks**

- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

- *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* by David Sedaris
- *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward

**Ms. Brown's Picks**

- *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore
- *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
- *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green
- *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

**Mr. Fossett's Picks**

- *Robert E. Lee: A Life* by Alan Guelzo
- Any title in the Inspector Troy series by John Lawton
- Any title in the Joe Wilderness series by John Lawton
- *Grant* by Ron Chernow
- Any title in the Gabriel Allon series by Daniel Silva

**Ms. Weinheimer's Picks**

- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion
- *Pachinko* by Min Jee Lee
- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu
- *Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls* by T. Kira Madden
- *Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Euphoria* by Lily King
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Brown [browng@countryday.net](mailto:browng@countryday.net) and/or Dr. Shaull [shaulle@countryday.net](mailto:shaulle@countryday.net).