

Dear Parents and Students of Language Arts 10 Honors Students,

You or your son or daughter has registered to take Language Arts Honors 10 during the 2022-2023 school year. This course is designed to be a challenging opportunity for student advancement within the English curriculum. Because of this, the requirements for the class **include at least two novels to be read (one MUST be House on Mango Street)** prior to the beginning of school. Listed below are short descriptions of summer reading books.

1. **Selection from the RHS Critical American Texts (See attached)**

There are four choices (you need to select ONE) that connect to influential American history/literature movements. Students need to choose ONE to read this summer.

Choice 1: *Sing, Unburied Sing* by Jessamyn Ward

Jessamyn Ward's historic second National Book Award-winner is "perfectly poised for the moment" (The New York Times), an intimate portrait of three generations of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle. Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. He doesn't lack in fathers to study, chief among them his Black grandfather, Pop. But there are other men who complicate his understanding: his absent White father, Michael, who is being released from prison; his absent White grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and the memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager.

Choice 2: *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, this #1 New York Times bestseller chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. The basis for the acclaimed original Amazon Prime Video series directed by Barry Jenkins. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him.

Choice 3: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

One of Oprah's Best Books of the Year and a PEN/Hemingway award winner, Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

Choice 4: *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

2. ***House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

Esperanza doesn't want to belong--not to her rundown neighborhood and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power and inventing for herself what she will become.

Students should treat these texts as **active reading novels**. They should include annotated passages, written notes etc. Traditionally, we have included a writing assignment before school begins however this year only the **reading is required**. The summer reading novels will be discussed throughout the year, and the student's knowledge of the stories will be soon after school begins.

Also--please fill out this google form so we know that you have read and understood the instructions.
<https://forms.gle/nYNLDNymM2yWQQBjZ>

Enjoy the summer, and happy reading ☺

In addition, we will be checking e-mail over the summer break: kcusmano@rochester.k.12.mi.us (Kelley Cusmano) or dkefallinos@rochester.k12.mi.us (Sia Kefallinos)

Sincerely,

Ms. Cusmano and Ms. Kefallinos