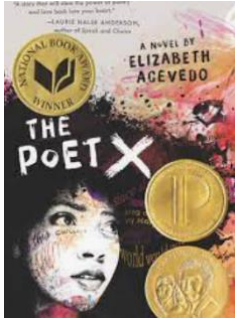


Welcome SMA class of 2026!

Over the summer we would like you to read this award-winning novel by Elizabeth Acevedo. Please have an in-hand, paperback copy (versus a digital one) with you for the first couple of weeks in the fall. When we meet as a class, you will be sharing your observations about the author's choices and writing about your reactions to the story.

English 9 Summer Assignment: *The Poet X*, Elizabeth Acevedo



Summary: As a fifteen-year-old girl in Harlem, Xiomara Baptista struggles with finding her voice, at least out loud. Instead she pours her thoughts into writing poetry, which is her solace and outlet. Xiomara (pronounced “see-oh-mah-rah), Xio or X for short, tells her story in a series of poems that span six months, unfolding how she finally takes a stand for who she is and what she believes in.

Reading Directions: As you read *The Poet X*, keep track of important, revealing moments when X voices her conflicts and convictions. Write in pencil in the margins or use sticky notes with your writing to flag these passages.

Writing Directions: After you have finished these notes for the entire text, write down **FIVE** quotations with page numbers, in which X

- struggles with a conflict
- or comes to a resting place in conviction

Optional reading: If you'd like to read an additional independent book this summer, we recommend the following texts. Similar to *The Poet X*, these works address topics of identity and the intersection of race, politics, class, and gender.

Piecing Me Together Renée Watson

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet Jamie Ford

Martin Marten Brian Doyle

March (Book 1 or all 3) John Lewis