

**English III AP Summer Reading 2023**  
**Tomball Memorial High School - Tomball ISD**

Dear Students,

We are so excited to have you in the TMHS English III AP / AP English Language & Composition program! Tomball ISD endorses a summer reading program for all students enrolled in advanced English courses grades 6-12. This summer we are offering a variety of novel choices from which to choose. You will have until **August 28th** to complete the novel of your choice to be prepared for the discussions and assessments that will take place during the school day.

The selections on the summer reading list have been chosen to encourage the enjoyment of reading and to prepare students for the study of literature. Upon returning to school in the fall, students will be engaged in inquiry circles with classmates who selected the same book. In order to be prepared to discuss the book in such a setting, students must read the book through a critical lens and be prepared to share insights and original observations discovered while reading.

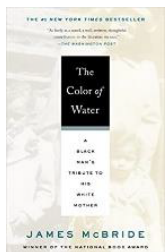
We realize that changes do occur during the summer, and sometimes students find themselves switching schools due to a recent move. **Should you find that you will be attending a different Tomball ISD school, please check with that campus for their reading list, as that campus may have a different reading list than what appears on this page.**

For record keeping purposes, please **scan this QR Code or click the link below to complete a Google Form** which will serve as your acknowledgment that you received this information and that you understand the expectations for summer reading.

<https://forms.gle/gB4xbXQeQzv8oUPF8>

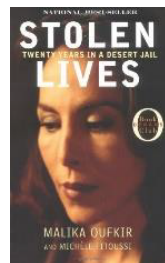


**Below is a list of books from which you may choose for your suggested summer reading:**



**OPTION #1 - The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride**

*The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain. In *The Color of Water*, McBride retraces his mother's footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story. Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success.*



**OPTION #2 - Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail by Malika Oufkir**

*The eldest daughter of General Oufkir, the King of Morocco's closest aide, Malika Oufkir was adopted by the king at age of five as a companion for his daughter. She spent most of her childhood and adolescence within the gilded walls of the palace, but her world was shattered at the age of nineteen when her father was executed for his part in an assassination attempt. Along with her mother and siblings, Malika was imprisoned in a penal colony for the next fifteen years - many in solitary confinement. In *Stolen Lives*, Malika recounts her family's story with unflinching and heartrending honesty. She recalls their day-to-day struggle for survival in harsh conditions, being watched around the clock by prison guards, and*

communicating with her family solely through prison walls for more than a decade. Through it all, Malika managed to draw upon her sense of humor, which, she says, "allowed us to survive even-and most of all-at the worst moments."



### **OPTION #3 - Becoming by Michelle Obama**

*In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, Becoming is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.*

## **SPECIAL NOTE FOR TEXT SELECTION:**

- With each experience the author shares, he/she is retelling the story not only because it was memorable or life-altering, but also because the experience helped shape who the author became as he/she matured.
- As you read this text, look for the following:
  - ◆ What was the take-away from the experience?
  - ◆ What did the author begin to appreciate because of the experience?
- **Mark in your book or make a notes page to track observations.**

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**ACTIVE READING:** The following ideas are suggested in order to help students engage in **active reading**:

In his essay "How to Mark a Book," Mortimer Adler explains that reading is a "conversation between you and the author." Adler writes: "Why is marking up a book indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked book is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thoughts you had, or the thoughts the author expressed."

"There are all kinds of devices for marking a book intelligently and fruitfully. Here's the way I do it (*see next page*):

- Underlining (or highlighting): of major points, of important or forceful statements
- Vertical lines at the margin: to emphasize a statement already underlined
- Star, asterisk, or other doo-dad at the margin: to be used sparingly, to emphasize the ten or twenty most important statements in the book (You may want to fold the bottom corner of each page on which you use such marks. It won't hurt the sturdy paper on which most modern books are printed, and you will be able take the book off the shelf at any time and, by opening it at the folded-corner page, refresh your recollection of the book.)
- Numbers of other pages in the margin: to indicate where else in the book the author made points relevant to the point marked; to tie up the ideas in a book, which, though they may be separated by many pages, belong together
- Circling or highlighting of key words or phrases
- Writing in the margin, or at the top or bottom of the page, for the sake of: recording questions (and perhaps answers) which a passage raised in your mind; reducing a complicated discussion to a simple statement; recording the sequence of major points through the book
- You can use sticky notes. Place these on the pages/paragraphs where you would underline or highlight and write out your thoughts or ideas on the note.
- Write out notes on paper and keep the paper inside the book. Include page numbers with comments/notations so that you will remember what prompted your thinking.

Should any questions arise, please contact:

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