

Hello Rising 9th Graders!

Your ninth grade English teachers are very much looking forward to meeting you this coming fall. Until then, we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to kickstart your engagement with literature through a bit of summer reading. First things first: pick and read one of the books from the attached list.

But how should you pick a book?

- **Choose books you find appealing.** There is no greater misery than plowing through a book you don't like.
- **Give it a chance.** Read at least a quarter of the book before you decide it's not for you. If after a quarter you're just not into it or it feels too tough to understand, you can abandon it!.
- **Annotate!** Take super short notes on the things you notice, on the connections to yourself or to other things you've experienced, or on things that resonate with you emotionally.
- **Think about mirrors and windows.** Books are both mirrors and windows. Mirrors are what we can see our reflection in and be reminded that our own lives matter. Windows give us a glimpse into someone else's existence. Perhaps push yourself a little bit to read both a mirror and window.
- **Read GoodReads.com!** Check out book suggestions from people your age.

You will have an opportunity to share insights from your summer reading with your classmates during the first week of school. Once again, we are excited to meet you and to hear about what literature you explored!

-The Maret Ninth Grade English Team

Young Adult Series

The Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis

The Hobbit and *The Lord of the Rings* by JR Tolkien

Famous and Contemporary Literature

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Americana by Chimamanda Adichie Ngozie

Animal Farm by George Orwell

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Notes From Underground by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

A Grain of Wheat by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Augustown by Kei Miller

Plays

The Works of William Shakespeare

No Exit by Jean-Paul Sartre

Oedipus and *Antigone* by Sophocles

The Visit by Friedrich Durenmatt

Graphic Novels

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Boxers and Saints by Gene Luen Yang