

English III

Summer Reading Assignment 2024

Please finish reading and annotating **BOTH** *The House on Mango Street* and *Between the World and Me* before the first day of school and bring your books to your first English class.

Task #1: Read and annotate *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

ISBN-13: 978-0679734772

Task #2: Read and annotate *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates ISBN-13: 978-0812993547

Guiding Questions:

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

1. How does our past influence our present and future?
2. What does it mean to be American?
3. How does one define the American Dream and do all people have equal access to it?
4. How has the American Dream changed over time?
5. What is the American ethos and how are these values reflected in our art, literature, and culture?

Annotation Advice:

There are many ways to interact with a text. Consider asking a lot of questions, defining words you don't know, making personal connections, and commenting on language that you find beautiful, challenging, or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotations with your enjoyment of the reading.

Book Information:

The House on Mango Street and *Between the World and Me* are available on Amazon and

other online/in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the books on your own. *The House on Mango Street* Synopsis (from amazon.com):

Told in a series of vignettes stunning for their eloquence, *The House on Mango Street* is Sandra Cisneros's greatly admired novel of a young girl growing up in the Latino section of Chicago.

Acclaimed by critics, beloved by children, their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, it has entered the canon of coming-of-age classics.

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, *The House on Mango Street* tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. 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.

Between the World and Me Synopsis (from amazon.com):

“In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.”