11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Summer reading

for 11th grade English III will consist of two assignments. Both assignments apply to the same book. Please read all directions carefully! Summer reading is due on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

REQUIRED BOOK:

When I Was The Greatest by Jason Reynolds- "A lot of the stuff that gives my neighborhood a bad name, I don't really mess with. The guns and drugs and all that, not really my thing." Nah, not his thing. Ali's got enough going on, between school and boxing and helping out at home. His best friend Noodles, though. Now there's a dude looking for trouble—and, somehow, it's always Ali around to pick up the pieces. But, hey, a guy's gotta look out for his boys, right? Besides, it's all small potatoes; it's not like anyone's getting hurt. And then there's Needles. Needles is Noodles's brother. He's got a syndrome, and gets these ticks and blurts out the wildest, craziest things. It's cool, though: everyone on their street knows he doesn't mean anything by it. Yeah, it's cool...until Ali and Noodles and Needles find themselves somewhere they never expected to be...somewhere they never should've been—where the people aren't so friendly, and even less forgiving."

Assignment #1: Discussion Questions

**These should be answered in PARAGRAPH form, either typed or handwritten.

1. Discuss Ali's character. Choose three adjectives to describe Ali and explain how these traits are shown through his actions, the events, how other characters feel about him, etc.
2. What specific details did the author use to develop the setting and to help readers who may be unfamiliar with this specific setting to picture it? How does the setting contribute to the conflict in the book?
3. Although Ali's family is not perfect, it definitely contrasts to the relationship Needles and Noodles have with their mom. How does their relationships with family impact all three of these characters? (Hint: To answer this well, you should also consider the root of Noodles' anger with Needles).
4. How is Malloy unique for a boxing instructor? How does his philosophy when deciding who to teach connect to the message of this book?
5. Look back at the cover of the book. What is symbolic about it? Why do you believe the author chose this as the book cover? If you could design the cover yourself, what would you include on it and how would you change it from the original?
6. After reading the book, consider what you think the author's overall message is. Write a paragraph in which you explain the theme (**theme** = **the me**ssage) of the book using examples from the novel. REMEMBER: Theme is not

one word. If you think the theme is family, what about family specifically can we learn from this?

Assignment #2: Narrative Essay

When I Was The Greatest is a novel that revolves heavily around family relationships and how our families impact who we are. For this assignment, you should choose ONE family member who has greatly influenced you and impacted your life and write about that person. Your goal should be to create your family member as a character - this is someone your reader does not know, so you must develop them fully to help us get a picture of who they are! Narrative writing tells a story. This means that you should develop your family member's character with stories. You may choose to do this by telling one story in detail for the entire piece of writing, OR you can mention a few memories and stories in a shorter way.

Your narrative should be AT LEAST 2 pages double spaced, in Times New Roman 12 font.

*If you have any questions over the summer regarding the novels or reading assignments please feel free to email me at awalker@bullochacademy.com.