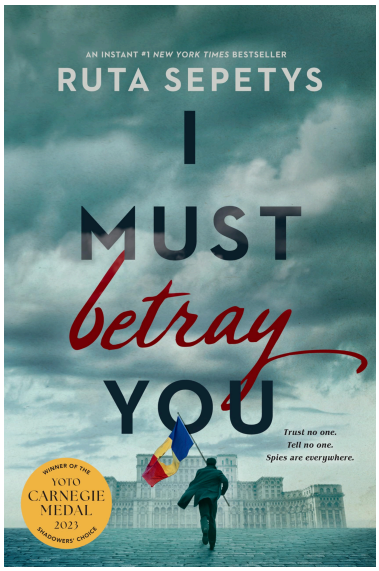
10TH GRADE SUMMER READING 2026

Summer reading for 10th grade English II will consist of 2 assignments. Please read all directions carefully! Summer reading is due on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Contact me at cburnette@bullochacademy.com with any questions.

REQUIRED BOOK:



I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys: A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation. Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom?

Assignment #1: Characterization

As you read *I Must Betray You*, look closely at the major characters. An author develops a character through the character's Speech, Thoughts, Effect on other characters, Actions, and Looks. You can remember this through the acronym STEAL. Complete the attached organizer for Cristian, the protagonist, and ONE other character of your choice. Provide 4 personality traits for each character and explain how the traits are exhibited through the novel. You must hand write your answers in the chart - it cannot be typed.

Example: This example is taken from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. While reading, I notice that Dudley, Harry's cousin, is spoiled.

TRAIT	EVIDENCE FROM NOVEL (either direct quote or explain a plot event)	How does this example prove the character trait you have chosen?
Spoiled	"Dudley, meanwhile, was counting his presents. "Thirty-six," he said, looking up at his mother and father. "That's two less than last year."	This quote illustrates that Dudley is spoiled because not only is he counting his birthday presents, he isn't satisfied with the very large number he's been given. He is clearly used to getting everything he wants. His parents make it worse because they keep allowing it, which you can see in this scene when Mrs. Dursley promises Dudley to get him more presents at the zoo that day.

Assignment #2: Theme Analysis

Create a mini-poster to demonstrate your understanding of the novel. You can decide how to organize the elements onto the page in your own creative way as long as you have everything listed below. This can be completed on a regular 8.5x11 sheet of paper, or you can use larger paper if you would like.

The following elements must be shown on your mini-poster.

- THEME: Write one theme statement that conveys a message that can be learned from the novel.
- BORDER: Draw a symbolic border that represents the novel.
- QUOTES: Include 2 quotes from the novel that you believe are essential to the message.
- PICTURES: You must have 3 hand drawn images. These can represent characters or the setting.
- IMPORTANT WORDS: Write 5 topic words that are essential to this novel.
- EXPLANATION: On the BACK of your mini-poster, explain what you have included. This should be about a paragraph and should help demonstrate your in-depth analysis of the novel.

Student's Name _____

Character's Name: Cristian_____

CHARACTERIZATION CHART

TRAIT	EVIDENCE FROM NOVEL (either direct quote or explain a plot event)	How does this example prove the character trait you have chosen?
TRAIT	EVIDENCE FROM NOVEL (either direct quote or explain a plot event)	How does this example prove the character trait you have chosen?
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Student's Name _____

Character's Name (your choice) _____

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