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

Summer Reading Options

In the Time of the Butterflies **by Julia Alvarez*:** A fictionalized account of the life of four sisters in the Dominican Republic who were assassinated for their part in a plot to overthrow the Trujillo dictatorship.

A Tale of Two Cities **by Charles Dickens*:** Set against the violent upheaval of the French Revolution, Dickens' novel compresses an event of immense complexity to the scale of a family history, with a cast of characters that includes a bloodthirsty ogress and an antihero as believably flawed as any in modern fiction.

Like Water for Chocolate **by Laura Esquivel:** Tita, the youngest daughter of the house, has been forbidden to marry, condemned by Mexican tradition to look after her mother until she dies. But Tita falls in love with Pedro, and he is seduced by the magical food she cooks.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time **by Mark Haddon*:** Despite his fear of people, an autistic boy decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secrets about his mother.

The Lion Women of Tehran **by Marjan Kamali:** Together, the young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences.

Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea **by Sungju Lee*:** Lee's memoir of growing up in North Korea and fending for himself after his parents disappeared when he was 12.

Augustown **by Kei Miller:** When Ma Taffy's great-nephew Kaia comes home from school in tears, what she senses sends a deep fear running through her. While they wait for his mama to come home from work, Ma Taffy recalls the story of the flying preacherman and a great thing that did not happen.

All Quiet on the Western Front **by Erich Maria Remarque*:** Paul enlists with his classmates in the German army during World War I. After years of torment, he holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principle of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against one another.

The Sun Is Also a Star **by Nicola Yoon*:** Natasha is on the verge of being deported to Jamaica when she meets Korean-American good son Daniel who believes there is something extraordinary in store for them.

*Available to read on SORA