

Kirtland High School—English 11 *#KHSBigSummerRead 2017-2018*

Welcome to English 11 American Literature! I look forward to working with you this upcoming school year. Much of our work throughout the fall will be informed by your summer reading assignment. The nature of this assignment will require you to work on it throughout the summer. You cannot procrastinate and wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and completing your work, or you will not receive credit. In order to have a productive start to your school year, you must complete this assignment to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and insight. **Book A work is due throughout the summer; Book B work will be due Friday, Aug. 25.** Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

Why read during the summer?

- Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other.
- Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences.
- The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically.
- Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop.
- Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power.

Book “A”—Twitter Study Hashtag: #KHSBigSummerRead

You do not have to use your personal Twitter Account; you may wish to set up an alternate account for this assignment and future coursework (either way, please set to “public” so that I can see you). Complete the survey to let me know where to find your Tweets:

**see separate handout for Google Form code*

****Participate these 9 times or more throughout the summer (please post in @ least 2 of 3 mo.):**

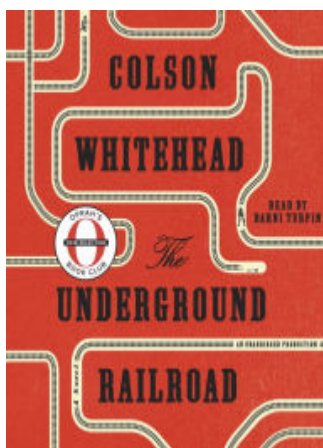
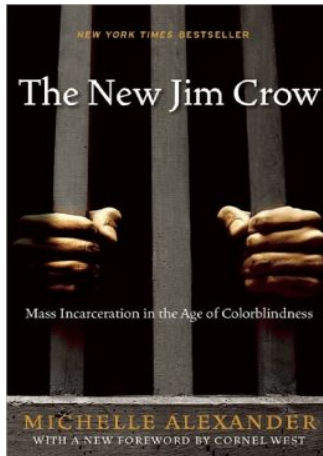
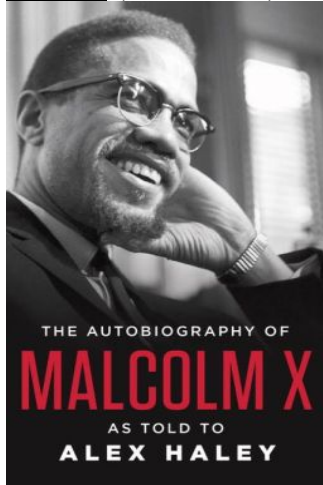
1. Tweet at least three memorable quotes.
2. Retweet an article related to your **Book A** title (Malcolm, Alexander, or Whitehead) and **briefly** describe how it links to the book.
3. Ask @ least one question about what you have read so far.
4. Respond to @ least three different peers.
5. Confidently answer and summarize one of the critical thinking questions in one tweet (found at bottom of page)

*****“Throughout the summer” means from Friday, June 2 - Friday, August 18.**

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. How does the author’s background inform this book?
2. How does this book connect to another book you’ve read or something you’ve studied?
3. Why do you think the author felt compelled to write this book?
4. How is this book relevant to today?
5. Should this book be required reading for English 11 students?

Book A (choose one):



**a brief note on academic integrity—I have the internet, too. I look forward to reading your reactions to your summer reading; I don't want to read regurgitations from Sparknotes or the like. Kirtland HS takes academic dishonesty seriously; you may wish to review consequences for violations (kinda ugly). Let this be the last time we need to mention such things . . .*

ONE OF *TIME'S* TEN MOST IMPORTANT NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

With its first great victory in the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the civil rights movement gained the powerful momentum it needed to sweep forward into its crucial decade, the 1960s. As voices of protest and change rose above the din of history and false promises, one voice sounded more urgently, more passionately, than the rest. Malcolm X—once called the most dangerous man in America—challenged the world to listen and learn the truth as he experienced it. And his enduring message is as relevant today as when he first delivered it.

***The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander**

Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. *The New Jim Crow* is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, the #1 *New York Times* bestseller from Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

"[A] potent, almost hallucinatory novel... It possesses the chilling matter-of-fact power of the slave narratives collected by the Federal Writers' Project in the 1930s, with echoes of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, and brush strokes borrowed from Jorge Luis Borges, Franz Kafka and Jonathan Swift...He has told a story essential to our understanding of the American past and the American present."

--Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

Summer Read—Book B (your choice!)
Combining good food, good conversation and good literature!
(*adapted from Catlin Tucker)

The second book from your summer reading assignment is your choice (maybe check out the mini-posters around 109 for ideas?). This second portion of your summer reading will conclude with an informal book club style chat. You will be sharing your self-selected book with your fellow classmates while relaxing and eating a dish inspired by your book. You will share your reflections and observations about what you have read with your group. My hope is that your conversations will expose your group to a book they would not otherwise know about, and you will walk away with book titles you are excited to read—

*please have the following prepared (parts 3 & 4 should be typed) and in hand for Friday, August 25.

The project for your second summer reading book consists of 4 parts:

1. **The Passage: Hook your group members . . .** Choose a striking, exciting, or descriptive passage to read to your group. The passage should be long enough (at least a page in length) to reveal something interesting about a situation in the story (element of the plot) or provide insight into a main character.
2. **Visual Book Promo:** A picture is worth a thousand words . . . Create a small 8x11 (size of a piece of computer paper) “poster” with the title of the book, the author, and at least **one symbol (or token)** incorporated into your collage or drawing (be sure to include your name). This poster should be neat, original (don’t just download something you found—create it!), creative, and accurate and will be displayed so you can see all the books your peers are currently reading.
3. **Honest Reaction: Is this book worth reading?** Write a one-page reflection (@ least 300 words) about your book. This reflection should focus on your reaction to the book. Did you enjoy this book? Why or Why not? Did you connect with the subject of the book or with a character in the book? What was your favorite part of the book? Why? Would you recommend this book to a classmate? Why or why not? What type of reader would enjoy this book?
4. **The Perfect Dish: This book makes me crave . . .** Choose a type of food, dish or beverage that you think goes nicely with this particular book and bring it in to share. Is there a scene that involves a particular type of food? Are the characters from a distinct cultural background that specializes in a particular type of food? Is your story sad or emotionally draining and therefore results in cravings for “comfort food”? Is your book a teen-read where the character is addicted to pizza or popcorn flavored jelly beans? Is your action adventure taking place on a climb to Mt. Everest where the characters only have access to Cliff Bars or freeze dried meals? Look at the details in your book and come up with something creative to share with your group of approximately 5 peers. Write a short explanation (about 150 words) of how this food goes with your book.

The Grade:

- Quality of passage & overall group conversation (thoughtful, engaging)
- Quality of visual (“Eye”-catching, carefully created)
- Quality of reflection/critique (honest, personal, specific)
- Food & explanation of why you chose this particular food or drink (thorough, considered)

Should you have any questions, feel free contact me via the Remind app or email me at eric.eyek@kirtlandschools.org