

BRIGHTER HORIZONS ACADEMY

COLLEGE PREPARATORY

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"Where Knowledge, Faith, Academics and Character Meet."



Dear Prospective 11th grade Families,

Assalamulaikum parents! We apologize for any confusion regarding the summer reading assignments. Inshallah this email will clarify any misunderstandings.

Summer is a time of rest and relaxation, but if used wisely, it can also be a time when your child is able to jump ahead with their skills and increase their reading levels. If your minds are not kept active, summer regression of skills may occur. To help maintain your reading level and develop a life-long love of reading, we encourage you to read as many self-selected books as you can over the summer!

To keep your skills sharp, we are recommending that you read the following books to help you prepare for the content and course requirements for the upcoming school year. There is one required summer reading and assignment for 11th grade on-track students.

Being well-read is one of the major keys to success on your on-track course, and in life. The books chosen for your summer reading will help broaden your scope of the world, will expose you to the inner workings and perspectives on our country, and challenge you to look beyond what you may take for granted on a daily basis living a blessed life in America.

Due Date for Reading the Novel and Journal Assignment: First week of school

For the summer assignment, you will choose between one of the following non-fiction books or choose a book of similar merit (email teacher for approval):

- FAST FOOD NATION by Eric Schlosser
- NICKEL AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA by Barbara Ehrenreich
- The Audacity of Hope, Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama
- Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
- Plastic by Susan Freinkel
- Salt by Mark Kurlansky
- The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
- I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

In addition to reading one of the books, you will keep and complete a dialectical journal assignment for the book. Being well-read and intelligent is not just about reading many books, but about being able to articulate what you THOUGHT about the content. By keeping a dialectical journal, you will learn how to

<p>Main Idea: We have overlooked the injustice and hard life of a low-wage worker for far too long in American society.</p> <p>Example Quote/Passage: “Mostly out of laziness, I decide to start my low-wage life in the town nearest to where I actually live, Key West, Florida, which with a population of about 25,000 is elbowing its way up to the status of a genuine city,” (Ehrenreich 13).</p>	<p>Example Response: In the beginning of the book, Ehrenreich explains that she began her journey in her very own hometown. She starts the chapter by casually stating that this was done “mostly out of laziness”, which already establishes how even she did not take this journey as seriously as she could have. This also helps us realize how every day and commonplace the life of a low-wage worker is-they can be found through “laziness” and in our very own, typical, American neighborhoods-in fact, we don’t have to look far to find evidence of this injustice or way of life. This helps establish her main argument of how rampant and commonplace the life of a low-wage worker is and how easily we overlook them.</p>
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The dialectical journal should be HANDWRITTEN, neatly, in a 3-subject spiral notebook that you will also use for class. If you choose to type your journal, you may recreate the template on a Word Document, print it out, and include it in the folder at the beginning of your spiral notebook. I would prefer handwritten journals, although it will not count against your grade to type them. Please write legibly and in blue/black pen. Do not, under any circumstance, share your journals or chosen quotes with anyone else. Having the same exact quotes as another person may result in a 0 on the assignment and/or a plagiarism count.

Label the notebook on the front cover with your name. Begin the first page with the full proper MLA heading:

First and Last Name
Ms. _____
Grade
Date

These journals will consist of quotations to which you respond critically for each work. Please label and date journals appropriately. You may have different dates/headings for each quote response.

You will be graded on:

- Main argument/idea articulated.....(10 points)
- Six quotes/passages to support the main argument.....(30 points total—5 points each)
- Full, original, thoughtful, response per quote (one paragraph, about 6-8 sentences, per quote)...(50 points total--- approx. 8 points each)
- Correct format and MLA Citation (10 points)

ORIGINAL WORK ONLY! It is important that you complete the responses completely in your own writing, reflecting your own individual thoughts. No outside help, research, sources, or work is required or allowed. You may not share quotes, use identical quotes as another student, or share your responses with anyone else. The entire journal must be your own original work. Sharing your responses or having identical work as another student will result in a failing grade on the assignment, which will be very tough to recover from as the first grade for the school year.

- ✓ 11th graders are expected to annotate the book as they read; however, annotations will not be checked. Annotations include highlighting significant quotes/passages, identifying and defining unknown vocabulary, writing questions, thoughts, and personal connections in the margin, and summarizing chapters. By this level, you are expected to annotate to aid your own understanding—it is not something that the teacher will check.
- ✓ The novel should be completed by the first day of school (August 16th). All grades will have an in-class performance task based on the reading within the first week of school, so be prepared! I suggest to begin your summer reading early so that you are not crammed for time in August. Bring the book you choose to read to class on the first day.

Enjoy your summer reading, insha Allah!

Jazakum Allahu Khairun,

BHA English Department

