

George C. Marshall High School
Summer Assignment 2018: Honors English 9

Congratulations on your decision to become part of this rigorous English 9 Honors course, which will help prepare you for the IB English program offered at George C. Marshall High School. As a survey course, the freshman English curriculum is eclectic in nature; students experience a broad variety of literature genres, they write expository, persuasive, and creative works, and they share knowledge through class discussions, seminars, and presentations. Though this is an academically rigorous program, we never stray far from the belief that learning should be fun. With this in mind, the summer reading assignment is intended to be enjoyable, as well as give us an academic starting point in the fall.

In preparation for our work together, we would like you to complete the following assignment this summer:

Reading

- Choose a nonfiction text to read. Consult the list of titles in this packet. You may select a title from the list or a title of your choice; however, a parent/guardian must approve of your choice.
- Choose your book carefully! If you start reading (or listening to) the book you selected and you discover it does not appeal to you, please select a different book. This book will serve as the basis for a year-long research project that will involve reading additional books, database articles, and conducting a field study, and all your research will culminate in an oral presentation about your topic in the spring. You need to be passionate about your book and your topic!
- Set aside enough time to complete your reading. We suggest starting the book by early July at the latest in order to have time to choose an alternative--if you so choose.

Annotations

- Provide annotations, either by writing in the book, using post-it notes, or keeping notes on a separate sheet of paper. Note lines that you find surprising, intriguing, unusual, informative, unexpected, or thought-provoking. Your goal is to find ideas in this book that you find personally meaningful and that you could investigate further.

Reflection

- Write a 150-200 word reflection about your reading experience. This may be handwritten or typed. Consider using the questions below to help structure your reflection:
 - Did you know about anything this topic before you started reading?
 - Did this book measure up to your expectations?
 - What will you remember most about this book?
 - What was interesting, surprising, moving, or unsettling about this book?
 - Has reading this book changed the way you look at something in the world?
 - Did this book challenge you in any way? Or did this book confirm something you already thought? Explain.
 - After reading this book, what do you want to learn more about?

Please bring your Summer Reading Assignment (annotations and reflection) to our second (2nd) class meeting. This assignment is the basis for other assignments that will follow shortly after the year begins. Having this assignment completed on time will also be of benefit to you on subsequent assignments.

NONFICTION TITLES

Below is the list of possible titles for the English 9 Honors summer assignment. You will find a variety of writing styles and subject matter covered in this list. You may choose a book not listed here; however, please make sure a parent/guardian approves of your choice.



***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* (2016)**

In this instant *New York Times* bestseller, pioneering psychologist Angela Duckworth shows anyone striving to succeed—be it parents, students, educators, athletes, or business people—that the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but a special blend of passion and persistence she calls “grit.” Drawing on her own powerful story as the daughter of a scientist who frequently noted her lack of “genius,” Duckworth, now a celebrated researcher and professor, describes her early eye-opening stints in teaching, business consulting, and neuroscience, which led to the hypothesis that what really drives success is not “genius” but a unique combination of passion and long-term perseverance.

***Girl Rising* by Tanya Lee Stone (2017)**

Worldwide, over 62 million girls are not in school. But one girl with courage is a revolution.

Girl Rising, a global campaign for girls’ education, created a film that chronicled the stories of nine girls in the developing world, allowing viewers the opportunity to witness how education can break the cycle of poverty.

Now, award-winning author Tanya Lee Stone...examines barriers to education in depth...and shows how removing these barriers means not only a better life for girls, but safer, healthier, and more prosperous communities.

With full-color photos from the film, infographics, and a compelling narrative, *Girl Rising* will inspire readers of all ages to join together in a growing movement to help change the world.

***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore (2011)**

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

***Popular: How a Geek in Pearls Discovered the Secret to Confidence* by Maya Van Wagenen (2015)**

Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at “pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren’t paid to be here,” Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell. The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya’s journey offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular.

***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff (2012)**

She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades. Whatever made me notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.



***Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell (2011)**

Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain (2013)**

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society--from van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer. This book shows how dramatically our culture has come to misunderstand and undervalue introverts, and gives introverts the tools to better understand themselves and take full advantage of their strengths.

***March: Book One* by John Lewis (2013)**

Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.

Now, to share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis presents *March*, a graphic novel trilogy, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell.

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

***The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater (2017)**

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever.

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

***The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults* by Frances E. Jensen (2014)**

An internationally respected neurologist offers a revolutionary look at the brains of adolescents, providing surprising insights--including why smart kids often do stupid things--and practical advice for adults and teens.

In this groundbreaking, accessible book, Dr. Frances E. Jensen, a mother, teacher, researcher, and internationally known expert in neurology, introduces us to the mystery and magic of the teen brain. *The Teenage Brain* presents new findings, dispels widespread myths, and provides practical suggestions for negotiating this difficult and dynamic life stage for both adults and adolescents.

Interweaving easy-to-follow scientific data with anecdotes drawn from her experiences as a parent, clinician, and public speaker, Dr. Jensen explores adolescent brain functioning and development, including learning and memory, and investigates the impact of influences such as drugs, multitasking, sleep, and stress.