



**Senior
Summer Reading
ACC English 1900
2018**

All twelfth grade ACC students must read the following:

- *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

The books you read over the summer will serve as the basis for a one-hundred-point, rhetorical analysis essay. The mode of writing will be informative, and you will be asked to evaluate your books based on their argument. Please consider setting, plot, character development, and theme in fictional works and memoirs. Students must illustrate an understanding of the structure of an essay by developing a central idea and a thesis statement, by creating fully-developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the books, and by including an introduction and conclusion. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any original, handwritten notes you collect over the summer. It is expected that you annotate the text as you would for a Socratic Seminar. Your ability to interpret a text and discover deep meaning based off author's choices is essential for the summer reading. We look forward to reading your responses to the books in August.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

1. Select any three chapters from the book to respond to in a reading log (each log entry should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a typed page) and can include:
 - Drawing connections to your experience with literature and reading
 - Making connections to other works you have read and studied
 - Applying the author's ideas to something you observe or relate to in the "real world". Think metaphorically to make this work.
 - Reacting, questioning, commenting on anything you've read, not simply restating what the author is saying

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***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

In this New York Times bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

A bag of chips. That’s all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad’s pleadings that he’s stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad’s resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad’s every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement?

There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad’s classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad’s best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before.

2. Please also get a copy of *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. As with the other book, please annotate.

Annotate your reading by:

- **Drawing connections to your experience with literature and reading**
- **Making connections to other works you have read and studied**
- **Applying the author’s ideas to something you observe or relate to in the “real world”. Think metaphorically to make this work.**
- **Reacting, questioning, commenting on anything you’ve read, not simply restating what the author is saying**

****Your annotations will be checked the first week. Be prepared to share your ideas and discuss in class.****