You have been assigned to read two books this summer.

Read one book from the list below and answer the attached questions. Bring the completed questions with you on the first day of school. This assignment will be graded. A thorough knowledge of one book from this list will be crucial to success in English class this year.

Also, read any book of your choice, as long as that book is the first book in a series. It should be a series you have never read. Read this series book carefully and come prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of the plot within the first week of school. You do not have to write your answers to the questions about the series book.

Parents:
- It is recommended that you purchase the books for your student so that they may annotate as well as add to their personal library. Current Collegiate students will purchase one of the novels below from their English teacher.
- All of the novels on this list as well as books in a series are readily available at local bookstores or at Amazon.com.
- WARNING: Any of the following young adult literature may contain mature reading material.

Choose one (1) novel from the following:

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him *misala*—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of twenty years of her life, beginning at age fourteen when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate. Celie’s abuse continues over the course of her marriage to “Mister,” a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister’s letters from her. The rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her toward self-awakening.

*Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this book is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you’ll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulled you under.
**Looking for Alaska** by John Green
Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave “the Great Perhaps” even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then . . . . After. Nothing is ever the same.

**Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson
Melinda Sordino busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now her old friends won’t talk to her, and people she doesn’t even know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that’s not safe. Because there’s something she’s trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth. This extraordinary first novel has captured the imaginations of teenagers and adults across the country.

**Summer of the Mariposas** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
After Odilia, sixteen, and her four younger sisters find a body floating in the river, they drive across the Mexican border to return the drowned man home. Their real mission, though, is to get to Abuelita’s house and find their father, who abandoned Mamá and his daughters a year earlier. In true mythic style, the girls encounter heroes and monsters on their perilous, sometimes gruesome journey, including attacks by a coven of winged witches and creatures from Mexican folklore.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
The beloved American classic about a young girl’s coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith’s *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness—in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

*Students intending to take AP English classes in the future are strongly encouraged to pick one of these books.*

**Also choose one (1) book that is the first book in a series of your choice.**

Series suggestions:

*Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling  
*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins  
*The Lunar Chronicles* by Marissa Meyer  
*Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card  
*The Mortal Instruments* by Cassandra Clare  
*The Infernal Devices* by Cassandra Clare  
*Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl  
*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner  
*Divergent* by Veronica Roth  
*Eve* by Ana Carey  
*Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld  
*Delirium* by Lauren Oliver  
*Perfect Chemistry* by Simone Elkeles  
*The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien  
*The Space Trilogy* by C. S. Lewis  
*Gone* by Michael Grant  
*Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor  
*Matched* by Ally Condie  
*Legend* by Marie Lu  
*The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater  
*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares  
*Reboot* by Amy Tintera  
*Chaos Walking* by Patrick Ness  
*His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman  
*The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith  
*Shades of Magic* by V. E. Schwab  
*Red Rising* by Pierce Brown
# Summer Reading Assignment, 9th Grade English

**Directions:** Answer the following questions about the book you chose from the summer reading list (NOT the first book of a popular series).

- You may write your answers neatly on notebook paper or you may type and print them out.
- Your answers must come from your brain and the book itself. Material taken from online summaries is considered plagiarism and will receive ZERO CREDIT.

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Questions / Reflection Prompts</th>
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| Characterization | 1. Choose two characters and write one paragraph about them in which you:  
  a. Describe traits of both characters (physical, emotional, etc.).  
  b. Explain how they are either like each other or unlike each other.  
  c. In this paragraph, weave in at least one quote and/or specific textual example per character. Include page numbers for any quotes.  
  2. Choose a character from the novel and write ten social media updates from their perspective. Write them in chronological order—some from the beginning, middle, and end of the book. (These are your invented words—not quotes.) |
| Setting         | 3. Would you want to live in the setting of this novel? Why or why not?                                                                                                                                                        |
| Point of View   | 4. If you could change the narrator, who would you want to be telling the story? Why? How would that affect the story?  
  5. OPTIONAL EXTRA-CREDIT QUESTION: Rewrite one scene of the novel from another character’s perspective.                                                                 |
| Conflict        | 6. Write about one problem or conflict the protagonist faces in your novel, and then say how you would solve that conflict if you were in their place.                                                                             |
| Plot            | 7. How would you rewrite the ending of the novel if you could? Why?  
  8. What was the most suspenseful part of the book for you? Why? At that moment, what did you think would happen? Did your prediction come true?                                                                 |
| Theme           | 9. What is your favorite quote from the novel? Why does it mean so much to you?  
  10. Tell about a time in your life when you learned the same lesson that the protagonist learned. Compare/Contrast your situations.                                                                 |
| Vocabulary      | 11. Identify one word that you needed to look up in a dictionary in order to understand a sentence fully. Copy down that sentence, underlining the word. Include the page number.                                                  |

**Summer Reading Assignment Checklist:**

- I answered each part of each question (including all of the why? questions).
- My answers include many details that clearly show my knowledge of the book.
- I did not look on the Internet for help. All answers came from the book and my brilliant brain.
- My handwriting is neat and large enough that another human can read it.