

Woodlawn High School Summer Reading Lists 2017-2018

All 9th and 10th grade students must select **ONE** of the books below to read over summer break. There will be an assessment within the first three weeks of school. **Gifted and Great Scholars students should select ONE book from the list and ONE book of choice to read independently. Gifted and Great Scholars students must write a response based on their selected book; the prompts are attached.**

9th Grade

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn- Betty Smith

Go Ask Alice- Anonymous

After Tupac and D Foster- Jacqueline Woodson

10th Grade

Brave New World- Aldous Huxley

Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity- Drew Brees

The Man in the Iron Mask- Alexandre Dumas

All 11th and 12th grade students must select **ONE** of the books below to read over summer break. There will be an assessment within the first two weeks of school. **Gifted/Great Scholars/AP students have a separate list with separate instructions.**

11th Grade

Gym Candy- Carl Deuker

The Joy Luck Club- Amy Tan

The House on Mango Street- Sandra Cisneros

12th Grade

The Kite Runner- Khaled Hosseini

Shots on the Bridge- Ronnie Greene

Maus I- Art Spiegelman

Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley

Choose either prompt A or B and write an analytical essay that evaluates the novel's theme. Comprehension of the structure of an essay must also be demonstrated. It should contain a well-developed introduction, central idea, three body paragraphs with supporting details, and a conclusion that expounds upon the points made throughout the essay. To aid in completing your essay, you may use any original, handwritten notes you collected over the summer. Please include the MLA Heading, 12-Font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced format.

- A. **(Society)** In the first line of *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, the reader learns the tri-partite pillars upon which World State is allegedly built: "Community, Identity, Stability." The processes by which these three qualities are achieved and maintained, however, seem completely paradoxical. Using examples from the text, examine each pillar and how Huxley develops his message or warning about how society should be structured.
- B. **(Conformity)** One of the problematic elements of World State is that each person plays a role in propping up the state's maladaptive values through their complicity with its rules and systems, and the more people conform, the fewer are likely to rebel. Analyzing specific characters in *Brave New World*, to illustrate precisely how complicity functions in a domino effect. Although almost all of the major characters have some physical or personality trait that makes them unconventional, most of them do not emphasize or exercise their difference in a way that challenges the reigning order.

Write an essay analyzing how the citizens of World State serve to perpetuate the very conditions that cause them distress.

Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity

by Drew Brees

When a potentially career-ending shoulder injury left quarterback Drew Brees without a team and facing the daunting task of having to learn to throw a football all over again? Coaches around the NFL wondered, Will he ever come back? After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, leaving more than 80 percent of the city underwater, many wondered, Will the city ever come back? And with their stadium transformed into a makeshift refugee camp, forcing the Saints to play their entire 2005 season on the road, people questioned, Will the Saints ever come back? It takes a special person to turn adversity into success and despair into hope? Yet that is exactly what Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees has done and with the weight of an entire city on his shoulders. *Coming Back Stronger* is the ultimate comeback story, not only of one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, but also of a city and a team that many had all but given up on. Brees's inspiring message of hope and encouragement proves that with enough faith, determination, and heart, you can overcome any obstacle life throws your way and not only come back, but come back stronger.

Write an analytical essay that evaluates the novel's theme. Comprehension of the structure of an essay must also be demonstrated. It should contain a well-developed introduction, central idea, three body paragraphs with supporting details, and a conclusion that expounds upon the points made throughout the essay. To aid in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collected over the summer. Please include the MLA Heading, 12-Font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced format.

- A. Have you ever read Shakespeare? Listened to Mariah Carey? If you have, you will notice that suffering is a central part of the human experience. Without suffering, people somehow become less than human. In the book written by Drew Brees, the theme of suffering is explored. Moreover, he discusses how suffering can be overcome through perseverance, determination and pure will. Write an essay that**
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analyzes the strength of character demonstrated by Mr. Brees and that examines how suffering—if handled correctly, leads to an improved condition that elevates the mind, body, and spirit not just of one man, but that of an entire state.

The Man in the Iron Mask

by Alexandre Dumas

Essay Prompts

Choose either prompt A or B and write an analytical essay that evaluates the novel's theme. Comprehension of the structure of an essay must also be demonstrated. It should contain a well-developed introduction, central idea, three body paragraphs with supporting details, and a conclusion that expounds upon the points made throughout the essay. To aid in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collected over the summer. Please include the MLA Heading, 12-Font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced format.

- A. The theme of the pursuit of power is central to the novel, "The Man in the Iron Mask." Many important characters are pursuing power; however, they are usually foiled in their attempts to attain this power. Using at least three character examples, illustrate how Dumas establishes a premise on the pursuit of power. Discuss how Dumas's view on the pursuit of power is relevant to today.**

 - B. One recurrent theme in "The Man in the Iron Mask" is that of respect and reverence for authority figures such as Louis and Philippe. Using specific textual examples, compare and contrast at least two approaches or attitudes toward respect and reverence as demonstrated by specific characters. Discuss what if any overarching message Dumas is conveying about the importance or unimportance of respect and reverence.**
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