

11th Grade **American Literature** Pre-Course Reading Guidelines 2021-2022

Required Reading Philosophy: The Pebblebrook English Department believes that the required reading assignment is an opportunity for students to establish a broad literary foundation and exercise independent reading and thinking skills. Students entering ANY English course must follow the directions below. See chart below for specific reading assignments.

American Literature **Honors American Literature**

Novel: You are responsible for reading *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore.

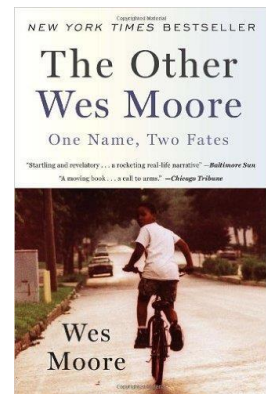
A Brief Summary of the Novel:

“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” (Amazon).

Video Clips:

These clips will provide a brief introduction to the novel.

1. “Raising Wes Moore” (Interview with the mothers)
<http://www.oprah.com/own-oprahshow/raising-wes-moore-video>
2. PBS Interview
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/entertainment-jan-june10-wesmoore_05-12/



Assignment for *The Other Wes Moore*:

You will be responsible for completing a double-entry journal. This assignment will be due on the first day of school, so please come prepared.

Complete **10** double-entry journal entries with a passage and a response for each entry (see sample double-entry journal entries on the next few pages). You may complete this assignment on paper or in a digital format.

You may contact us by e-mail over the summer if you have questions or need clarification. Please have your assignment completed for the first day of school, as we will be engaging in discussions right away.

Double-entry journals will be a conversation on the page. On the left, you will write important quotations from the novel; on the right, you will write why the quote is significant in the context of the story. Set it up like this:

Note Taking	Note Making (Response)
<p>Citing page numbers, write significant excerpts from the text on this side of the page. The excerpts of text will add meaning for your understanding of a theme from the novel.</p> <p>Please cite page numbers in MLA format: (Moore #).</p>	<p>Directly across from the significant excerpts, write your original ideas about the importance of the text. This analysis must be at least five complete sentences. Your analysis may include any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is speaking? Where does this particular scene take place (setting)? Explain the character's thoughts, motives, and actions (i.e. What does the person mean?). 2. What does this excerpt reveal about the character(s) or ideas in this book? What is your opinion of the character(s)? Use textual evidence to substantiate your claim. 3. What literary device/technique (i.e. symbolism, flashback, irony, metaphor, simile, personification, allusion, hyperbole, etc.) does the author use to convey meaning? 4. I really don't understand why... 5. I agree/disagree wholeheartedly with the idea/statement that... 6. I think the message the author is trying to convey is... 7. What does the excerpt say or reveal about America and/or the American Dream?
Examples of STRONG entries	
<p>Title: Mom & Me & Mom Author: Maya Angelou Page Range: 175-200 Entry #6: "Vivian Baxter was in a coma. I spoke to her anyway. Her hand lay in mine without movement" (Angelou 196).</p>	<p>In this quote, Maya Angelou, the narrator, is speaking from her mother's hospital room in Greensboro, North Carolina. Maya had just returned home to North Carolina after being away for a few weeks on business. Her mother had encouraged her to accept an invitation to teach in England at the University of Exeter. Maya had initially refused the offer because she was extremely reluctant to leave her ill mother's side. However, her mother promised that she would still be there when Maya returned.</p>
<p>Title: Mom & Me & Mom Author: Maya Angelou Page Range: 175-200 Entry #6: "Vivian Baxter was in a coma. I spoke to her</p>	<p>After a very difficult childhood without her parents, and conversely, an adolescence and adulthood drenched in her mother's unique and powerful love, Maya is forced to watch her mother, Vivian Baxter, fade into</p>

<p>anyway. Her hand lay in mine without movement” (Angelou 196).</p>	<p>powerlessness at the hands of lung cancer. Vivian Baxter was a passionate, popular, and independent figure throughout her life, but as she lay dying, she became silent then still.</p>
<p>Examples of WEAK entries</p>	
<p>Title: Mom & Me & Mom Author: Maya Angelou Page Range: 175-200 Entry #6: “Vivian Baxter was in a coma. I spoke to her anyway. Her hand lay in mine without movement” (Angelou 196).</p>	<p>In this quote, Maya Angelou is the narrator. She’s in a hospital room visiting her mother. Her mother wants her to teach at a university, but Maya may not go.</p>
<p>Title: Mom & Me & Mom Author: Maya Angelou Page Range: 175-200 Entry #6: “Vivian Baxter was in a coma. I spoke to her anyway. Her hand lay in mine without movement” (Angelou 196).</p>	<p>This quote is significant. Vivian Baxter can’t move.</p>
<p>Purchasing Books: You may find all books in the public library, or you may purchase one from a bookstore or on the internet (Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnes & Noble, The Book House in Mableton, etc.) If you have any questions, contact English Academic Coach at: telicia.leonard@cobbk12.org</p>	