

MAGNET 9TH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

PRE-COURSE READING: 2023-2024

Why Pre-Course Reading? The North Cobb High School English Department knows that pre-course reading helps you expand your vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills, as well as gain new perspectives on life situations. Research is clear: The more reading you do, the more information you gain, and the better your reading skills will become. Reading is also an effective means of preparing for standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, and AP exams.

What do I read? Please select **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

<i>Book Title and Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>When the Emperor Was Divine</i> , by Julie Otsuka	On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, in 1942, a woman sees a sign in a post office window, returns to her house, and matter-of-factly begins to pack her family's possessions. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans, they have been reclassified virtually overnight as enemy aliens, and they are about to be uprooted from their home and sent to a dusty internment camp in the Utah desert. In this lean and devastatingly evocative first novel, Julie Otsuka tells their story from five flawlessly realized points of view and conveys the exact emotional texture of their experience: the thin-walled barracks and barbed-wire fences, the omnipresent fear and loneliness, the unheralded feats of heroism.
<i>When I was Puerto Rican</i> , by Esmeralda Santiago	Esmeralda Santiago reminisces about her childhood in Puerto Rico and her early years in Brooklyn as the oldest of seven (soon to be 11) children. Her upbringing is turbulent on account of her parents' relentless fighting, which only ever seems to stop when they decide to have another baby. When her youngest brother has an accident, her mother decides to move to New York with her children to seek medical treatment. Arriving in the United States, 13-year-old Santiago experiences uprooting and a loss of identity while she tries to adapt to a culture and language that are foreign to her.
<i>A Long Way Gone</i> , by Ishmael Beah	A story of how, as a young boy in Sierra Leone, the author found himself caught in a civil war and recruited as a child soldier. You'll travel alongside during his harrowing journey, eventual rescue and recovery guided through the kindness and grace of loving people.

Important Note for Parents/Guardians: Please research accordingly before your student selects their book. You may wish to use resources such as Good Reads Reviews and Common Sense Media to ensure that you and your student are comfortable with the material in this book.

What do I do? Read attentively and enjoy your book! Annotating is **recommended** but will **not** be required as a grade. However, after the first week of the semester, you will have an assessment requiring your knowledge of this book.

Tips for Annotation: If you own the book, write in it. If you borrow the book, use sticky notes (make sure you keep track of page numbers). As you read, use annotations to identify and label examples of the following:

- **Connections** (tell how the events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of)
- **Questions** (ask a specific question about the story or about why they author wrote it the way he/she did)
- **Emotion** (tell how the events in the story make you feel- do you think the character is making good choices)
- **Analysis** (Discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or other literary device you may have studied in your English classes)