

MAGNET AMERICAN 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>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> by Cristina Henríquez	Arturo and Alma Rivera have lived their whole lives in Mexico. One day, their fifteen-year-old daughter, Maribel, sustains a terrible injury, one that casts doubt on whether she'll ever be the same. And so, leaving all they have behind, the Riveras come to America with a single dream: that in this country of great opportunity and resources, Maribel can get better. Woven into their stories are the testimonials of men and women who have come to the United States from all over Latin America.
<i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri	Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the tangled ties between generations.
<i>We are Not Free</i> by Traci Chee	The collective account of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II. Fourteen teens who have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco, who form a community and a family, whose lives are turned upside down when over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry are removed from their homes and forced into desolate incarceration camps. In a world that seems determined to hate them, these young Nisei must rally together.

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 – BUT you will be able to use your annotations during your assessment on this book in the first weeks of the semester!

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:

- **Why do these characters value America? What, specifically, do they value?**
- **How do you see these characters striving for and/or achieving the American Dream?**
- **How does this story reflect both positives and negatives of the American immigrant experience?**
- **How do the characters' perspectives develop and change as they live in America?**
- **Beautiful sentences!**
- **Anything you notice that seems important and/or you have a question about**