Summer Assignment 2019 English 9

***Course Title: English 9 Summer Assignment***

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**Assignment:** Read a book new to you. The book can be fiction, nonfiction, graphic novel, and/or in verse. There are titles listed at the bottom of the document. Your local library will also have suggestions.

**Purpose of Assignment:** Each book contains many central themes discussed throughout English in 9th grade. Additionally, reading will help improve overall fluency and help build vocabulary. Completing this assignment will help prepare students for the thematic and analytical focus of 9th grade English.

**Estimated time to complete Assignment:** 5-6 hours.

**Due date and method of assessment for Assignment:** Students should expect a writing assignment on the book they chose from this list during the second week of school. Additionally, students are expected to be ready to participate in discussions of their novels during that second week.

**Instructions for Assignment**: Read a book new to you. *As you read, consider what the author is saying about identity. How does this text define one’s identity? What makes up a person’s identity?*

Book recommendations:

*Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card

Intense is the word for *Ender's Game*. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost

destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world

government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts

of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is

a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time

is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet? (Amazon.com review)

*Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Meyers

A coming of age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late

1960s, *Fallen Angels* is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the

service when his dream of attending college falls through. As Perry struggles to find

virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most

dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is there at all. (Amazon.com review)

*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

Subtitled *The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban,* this book is the non-fiction memoir of the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. *The Washington Post* wrote "Riveting.... This is a book that should be read not only for its

vivid drama but for its urgent message about the untapped power of girls.... It is difficult

to imagine a chronicle of a war more moving, apart from perhaps the diary of Anne

Frank. With the essential difference that we lost that girl, and by some miracle, we still

have this one."

*Forged by Fire* by Sharon Draper

When Gerald was a child he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful,

and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the

loving generosity of a favorite aunt. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil

secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half sister,

Angel, whom he struggles to protect. This is an inspiring story of a young man who rises

above the tragic circumstances of his life by drawing on the love and strength of family

and friends. (Amazon.com)

*The Living* by Matt De La Pena

In a sense, four books in one: a finely observed social-class drama, an on-the-sea survival

adventure, a global-disaster book, and a contagion thriller. Shy Espinoza is 11 days into

his summer job on a luxury cruise line when “the Big One” hits California, hurling

massive tsunamis into the ocean and tearing our contemporary romantic plotline to bits,

as Shy and an unexpected companion are forced to survive in churning, shark-infested

waters. (*Booklist* review)

