

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 7**

Welcome to Grade 7 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 7th grade English theme: "**Utopia/Dystopia.**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **five books**, the three required readings and two additional books of your own choice. Use the list provided to guide your choices, but feel free to use other lists as well, such as those produced by your local library. You must read the original text. Any abridged texts will not be counted for summer reading credit. We want you to love to read and have fun reading. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. **D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths** by Ingri & Edgar Parin D'Aulaire
2. **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan (or any of this series)
3. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist*** by Neil Swidey

4. & 5. Read at least two other books of your own choosing.

All books below match the "utopia/dystopia" theme. Although these last two choice books are just that -- your choice -- it is highly suggested that your reading matches our "utopian/dystopian" theme for you to be best prepared. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

Any of the ***The Hunger Games series*** (*The Hunger Games, Catching Fire* and/or *Mockingjay*) by **Suzanne Collins**

From School Library Journal: In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed,

weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games.

***The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer**

From Publishers Weekly: Farmer's novel...hits close to home, raising questions of what it means to be human, what is the value of life, and what are the responsibilities of a society.

***The Shadow Speaker* by Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu**

From [Booklist](#): Okorafor-Mbachu's second novel opens in Saharan Africa in the year 2070, then takes its 14-year-old heroine on a quest to the world first introduced in Zahrah the Windseeker. Years after an act of bioterrorism on earth, its most dramatic effect, the opening of a border with the planet Ginen, has just materialized. An untrained "shadow speaker," Muslim teen Ejii is compelled by otherworldly voices to help avert a war between the newly joined worlds.

***The Distant Hours: A Novel* by Kate Morton**

From [Booklist](#): Edie Burchill leads a quiet life as the young vice-president of a small London publishing house. On a trip to meet with a potential author, she gets lost and accidentally discovers Milderhurst Castle, the once stately home in which, as a child, her mother was billeted during WWII. Edie senses a mystery to be uncovered...

***The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by M.T. Anderson** or any of this series

From School Library Journal: *Starred Review*. In this fascinating and eye-opening Revolution-era novel, Octavian, a black youth raised in a Boston household of radical philosophers, is given an excellent classical education.

***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

From Publishers Weekly: Bratty and spoiled Mary Lennox is orphaned when her parents fall victim to a cholera outbreak in India. As a result, Mary becomes the ward of an uncle in England she has never met.

***The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll** or any of this series

"A book of wonder and nonsense laced with lethal wit." --*Guardian*

***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum**

From Amazon.com: Every one's favorite farm girl, Dorothy from Kansas, finds herself on a strange odyssey with three new friends. Readers young and old alike will enjoy this trip down Memory Lane, via the Yellow Brick Road.

***Delirium* by Lauren Oliver**

Amazon Best Books of the Month, February 2011: Lena Haloway is content in her safe, government-managed society. She feels (mostly) relaxed about the future in which her husband and career will be decided, and looks forward to turning 18, when she'll be cured of deliria, a.k.a. love...But 95 days before her cure, Lena meets Alex, a confident and mysterious young man...

***Matched* by Allie Condie**

Amazon Best Books of the Month, December 2010: For Cassia, nothing is left to chance--not what she will eat, the job she will have, or the man she will marry...when Cassia's best friend is identified as her ideal marriage Match it confirms her belief that Society knows best, until she plugs in her Match microchip and a different boy's face flashes on the screen.

***Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi**

From School Library Journal: Nailor works light crew; his dirty, dangerous job is to crawl deep into the wrecks of the ancient oil tankers that line the beach, scavenging copper wire and turning it over to his crew boss. After a brutal hurricane passes over, Nailor and his friend Pima stumble upon the wreck of a

luxurious clipper ship.

Nothing by Janne Teller

Starred Review Indelible, elusive, and timeless, this uncompromising novel has all the marks of a classic. A group of Danish seventh-graders have their insulated suburban world jolted when classmate Pierre Anthon stands up and announces, "Nothing matters"...the kids decide to assemble a pile of objects that will prove Pierre Anthon wrong.

Any of the ***The Uglies series by Scott Westerfeld***

From School Library Journal: Starred Review. Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties."

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required

#1: _____

2. Required

#2: _____

3. 2011 Common

Book: _____

4. Choice #1:

5. Choice #2:

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 8**

Welcome to Grade 8 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 8th grade English theme: "**Coming of Age**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **three books**, the two required readings and one additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. We want you to love to read and have fun reading. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. **Breathing Underwater** by Alex Finn
2. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist*** by Neil Swidey

3. Read at least one other "coming of age" book from the list below.

All books below match the "coming of age" theme. You must choose your third book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

***Slam* by Walter Dean Myers**

A Coretta Scott King Award winner, *Slam* is the brave coming of age tale of high school basketball player Greg "Slam" Harris. Slam is sure he can become a professional ball player, but he comes to doubt his abilities when faced with the reality of his struggles off the court.

***Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff**

This is the story of a girl who dreams of going to college but whose family is too poor for her to do so. She ends up getting a babysitting job for a young mother and later on befriends her. Both girls learn a lot from each other about what they can accomplish in life.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

Stargirl is different from all of the other kids at school, but that is what makes her special. One boy sees Stargirl as interesting and ends up dating her, only to find himself asking her to change in order to be accepted by their schoolmates. Will Stargirl give up her identity to please her boyfriend?

***Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* by Chris Crutcher**

Two outcast students find their way to one another in this heartwarming tale of friendship and acceptance. Sarah has the scars of a childhood burn, and Eric is the fattest kid in school. But soon Eric joins the swim team, and the exercise forces him to lose weight. Will Eric and Sarah's friendship last if he becomes slim?

***Rumble Fish* by S.E. Hinton**

A young troublemaker named Marty must decide whether or not he's going to follow a more positive path or continue to be a lonely delinquent.

***The Cry of the Icemark* by Stuart Hill**

A 13-year-old princess must defend her kingdom and avenge the death of her father.

***The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier**

When a middle-schooler stands up to the secret society at his prep school, all heck breaks loose.

***Forever* by Judy Blume**

Known more for its honest voice than literary quality, this novel has nonetheless had a huge impact on generations of young women.

***A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich* by Alice Childress**

Set in 1970s Harlem, this moving novel shows the life of a 13-year-old heroin addict through several characters' eyes.

***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott**

Enchant your preteen with this eloquent (and lengthy) story of four sisters growing up during the Civil War. Learn more.

***The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton**

This classic story of class struggles, loyalty, and honor is a sure hit with middle-schoolers.

***A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce**

Your older teen can dive into this story of a young Irishman struggling to decide between a religious vocation and an artistic one.

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith**

Dive into this turn-of-the-century story about a girl struggling to grow amidst poverty.

***Waves* by Sharon Dogar**

Narratives shift between a boy struggling to help his family and the comatose sister whose voice he hears.

***The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings**

A young boy adopts an abandoned fawn who becomes a treasured member of the family.

***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

After Rosaleen is attacked by three racists and thrown in jail, Lily decides to rescue her, and together the two of them embark on an amazing adventure.

***Juniper Tree Burning* by Goldberry Long**

An angry young woman who hates her wacky name - Juniper Tree Burning - because it represents the alternative upbringing that singled her out as an oddball at school in New Mexico.

The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor

Nine-year-old Lucy Gault is so distressed that her parents want to flee troubled Ireland, she decides to fake her disappearance in order that she can stay.

Bad Boy by Walter Myers

Plagued by both a severe speech impediment that left him perpetually frustrated and a plain old predisposition for troublemaking, Myers was, to put it mildly, a "handful..."

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Optional and a good idea: Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 9**

Welcome to Grade 9 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 9th grade English theme: "**Overcoming Adversity**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **three books**, the two required readings and one additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. **Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson
2. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist*** by Neil Swidey

3. Read at least one other "coming of age" book from the list below.

All books below match the "coming of age" theme. You must choose your third book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn. *Half the Sky*.

From Publishers Weekly: Starred Review. *New York Times* columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.

Johnson, Louanne. *Muchacho*.

Eddie Corazon, an angry juvenile delinquent in an alternative school, is influenced by love, a special teacher, books, and a criminal cousin as he tries to find his true self.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*.

In 1968 Chicago, Sam struggles to decide whether to support his father's nonviolent approach to civil rights or his brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

McCormick, Patricia. *Purple Heart.*

Private Matt Duffy receives the Purple Heart, but he cannot remember the incident that left him with a traumatic brain injury and an image of an Iraqi boy's death.

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. *Gringolandia.*

After surviving years of torture as a political prisoner in Chile in the 1980s, Daniel's father rejoins his family in the United States, but his fight for justice isn't over.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Alligator Bayou.*

Fourteen-year-old Calogero emigrates to Louisiana in 1899, where his tiny Sicilian community faces discrimination and worse in a small town where they're considered neither black nor white.

Pena, Matt de la. *We Were Here.*

Miguel, sentenced to a group home for a horrible crime, must overcome his self-hatred while on the run with two other criminals.

Rapp, Adam. *Punkzilla.*

Jamie has run away from his family, military school, and his troubled past. He sets out via bus to visit his dying brother, writing letters along the way.

Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl.*

During WWII, Ida Mae Jones must go against her family and heritage to join the Army's WASP program and fulfill her dream of being a pilot.

Warman, Jessica. *Breathless.*

When her schizophrenic brother's behavior grows violent, Katie parents send her off to boarding school, where she quickly becomes part of the in crowd while harboring a dark secret.

Williams, Carol Lynch. *The Chosen One.*

When the Prophet commands thirteen-year-old Kyra to marry her aging uncle, her family is shaken. Desperate to escape, Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk.

Hoose, Phillip M. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice.*

As a teen, Claudette Colvin sparked the protest that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and desegregation of public facilities by refusing to relinquish her seat to a white woman.

Mann, Charles C. *Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491.*

Well before the arrival of Columbus, there were highly advanced civilizations in the Americas. More native people died from their germs than at the hands of the Europeans.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Optional and a good idea: Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
SUMMER READING LIST 2011
INCOMING GRADE 9**

Welcome to Grade 9 and Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a good start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 9th grade English theme: "**Overcoming Oppression: Using Challenges to Create Strength.**"

When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **five books**, the two required readings and three additional books of your own choice. Use the list provided to guide your choices, but feel free to use other lists as well, such as those produced by your local library. We want you to love to read and have fun reading.

Please bring your parental signature form with you on the first day of school. Format your reading notes according to the outline below. **Your summer reading counts as 25% of your Term One grade.**

Title
author
setting (<i>time & place</i>)
major characters
brief summary
theme (<i>author's message</i>)
personal reaction
Thematic connection: What does this book have to do with being oppressed and with using challenges to create strength? Support your answer with at least three quotes from the text.

Required readings:

- 1. The Color of Water by James McBride**
- 2. The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist* by Neil Swidey**

3., 4. & 5. Read at least three other books of your own choosing.

All books below match the "Overcoming Oppression" theme. Although these last two choice books are just that -- your choice -- it is highly suggested that your reading matches our theme for you to be best prepared.

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn. *Half the Sky*.

From Publishers Weekly: Starred Review. *New York Times* columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former *Times* reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide.

Johnson, Louanne. *Muchacho*.

Eddie Corazon, an angry juvenile delinquent in an alternative school, is influenced by love, a special teacher, books, and a criminal cousin as he tries to find his true self.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*.

In 1968 Chicago, Sam struggles to decide whether to support his father's nonviolent approach to civil rights or his brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

McCormick, Patricia. *Purple Heart.*

Private Matt Duffy receives the Purple Heart, but he cannot remember the incident that left him with a traumatic brain injury and an image of an Iraqi boy's death.

Miller-Lachmann, Lyn. *Gringolandia.*

After surviving years of torture as a political prisoner in Chile in the 1980s, Daniel's father rejoins his family in the United States, but his fight for justice isn't over.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Alligator Bayou.*

Fourteen-year-old Calogero emigrates to Louisiana in 1899, where his tiny Sicilian community faces discrimination and worse in a small town where they're considered neither black nor white.

Pena, Matt de la. *We Were Here.*

Miguel, sentenced to a group home for a horrible crime, must overcome his self-hatred while on the run with two other criminals.

Rapp, Adam. *Punkzilla.*

Jamie has run away from his family, military school, and his troubled past. He sets out via bus to visit his dying brother, writing letters along the way.

Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl.*

During WWII, Ida Mae Jones must go against her family and heritage to join the Army's WASP program and fulfill her dream of being a pilot.

Warman, Jessica. *Breathless.*

When her schizophrenic brother's behavior grows violent, Katie parents send her off to boarding school, where she quickly becomes part of the in crowd while harboring a dark secret.

Williams, Carol Lynch. *The Chosen One.*

When the Prophet commands thirteen-year-old Kyra to marry her aging uncle, her family is shaken. Desperate to escape, Kyra knows that running away puts them all at risk.

Hoose, Phillip M. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice.*

As a teen, Claudette Colvin sparked the protest that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and desegregation of public facilities by refusing to relinquish her seat to a white woman.

Mann, Charles C. *Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491.*

Well before the arrival of Columbus, there were highly advanced civilizations in the Americas. More native people died from their germs than at the hands of the Europeans.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has kept a journal of the readings.

1. Required #1: _____

2. 2011 Common

Book: _____

3. Choice: _____

4. Choice: _____

5. Choice: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 10**

Welcome to Grade 10 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 10th grade English theme: "**Conformity and Rebellion**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **three books**, the two required readings and one additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. Any of the *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins
2. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book:** *The Assist* by Neil Swidey

3. Read at least one other "Conformity and Rebellion" books from the list below. All books below match the "Conformity and Rebellion" theme. You must choose your third book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

M.T. Anderson. *Feed*.

Set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies.

Laurie Halse Anderson. *Speak*.

A teenager chooses not to speak rather than to give voice to what really happened at a party one summer night.

Robert Cormier. *The Chocolate War*.

Does Jerry Renault dare to disturb the universe? You wouldn't think that his refusal to sell chocolates during his school's fundraiser would create such a stir, but it does.

Robert Cormier. *I am the Cheese*.

Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself.

Marjane Satrapi. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood.*

A timely and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution.

Philip Capuot. *Rumor of War.*

A riveting account of life in an infantry platoon in Vietnam.

Ji-Ji Jiang. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*

A child's nightmare unfolds in Jiang's chronicle of the excesses of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution in China in the late 1960s.

Jamaica Kincaid. *A Small Place*

Kincaid here examines the geography and history of Antigua, where she was raised.

Esmeralda Santiago. *Almost a Woman*

After her family's arrival in New York City, Santiago faced the difficult process of assimilation.

Maxine Hong Kingston. *Woman Warrior*

A pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California.

Sinclair Lewis. *Babbitt*

A satire on American values, the main theme is the power of conformity and the vacuity of American life.

Scott Westerfeld. *The Uglies.*

Enter a world where your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise.

Madeleine L'engle. *Wrinkle In Time*

One stormy night a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother, Charles Wallace and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and fantastic journey.

R. D. Laing. *Politics Of Experience*

Goes beyond the usual theories of mental illness and alienation, and makes a convincing case for the 'madness or morality.'

Christopher Hitchens. *Letters To A Young Contrarian*

Inspires future generations of radicals, rebels, and angry young men and women in these essays on the importance of disagreement to personal integrity, informed discussion, and democracy itself.

Hal Niedzviecki. *Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became The New Conformity*

A blunt message for the army of tattoo and piercing enthusiasts, bloggers, skateboard warriors, and anyone else walking around with the smug certainty that they are one of a kind: Individuality is the new conformity.

Karen Cushman. *Loud Silence Of Francine Green*

Francine Green doesn't speak up much, and who can blame her? There's safety in silence.

Chris Crutcher. *Sledding Hill*

Eddie hasn't had an easy year First his father dies. Then his best friend Billy accidentally kicks a stack of Sheetrock over on himself, breaking his neck and effectively hitting tilt on his Earthgame.

Stephen King. *Tommyknockers*

A spaceship landed at the bottom of a garden and when it is uncovered, the citizens of Haven metamorphose into increasingly bizarre and dangerous creatures.

Yang , Gene Luen Yang and Lark Pien. *American Born Chinese*

The story of three apparently unrelated characters, including a boy who moves only to discover he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school.

Ken Kesey. *Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* Uses an innovative structure and unique characters to tell a memorable story set in a mental institution.

Brian Mandabach. *Or Not*

Cassie Sullivan finds herself isolated in junior high hell when she stands up for her beliefs in a post-9/11 world.

Edith Wharton. *Age Of Innocence*

Deeply moving study of the tyrannical and rigid requirements of New York high society in the late 19th century and the effect of those strictures on the lives of three people.

Todd Strasser and Strasser. *Wave*

The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students.

Ursula K. Le Guin. *Left Hand Of Darkness*

This classic science fiction novel is the story of Winter, a planet with semi-arctic conditions and inhabitants all of the same sex.

Ayn Rand. *Anthem*

The unforgettable tale of a nightmarish totalitarian future-and the ultimate triumph of the individual spirit.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Optional and a good idea: Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 10 HONORS**

Welcome to Grade 10 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 10th grade English theme: "**Conformity and Rebellion**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **five books**, the three required readings and two additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

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Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. Any of the *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins
2. ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** by Ken Kesey
3. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist*** by Neil Swidey
4. & 5. **Read at least two other "Conformity and Rebellion" books from the list below.**

All books below match the "Conformity and Rebellion" theme. You must choose your fourth and fifth book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

M.T. Anderson. *Feed*.

Set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies.

Laurie Halse Anderson. *Speak*.

A teenager chooses not to speak rather than to give voice to what really happened at a party one summer night.

Robert Cormier. *The Chocolate War*.

Does Jerry Renault dare to disturb the universe? You wouldn't think that his refusal to sell chocolates during his school's fundraiser would create such a stir, but it does.

Robert Cormier. *I am the Cheese.*

Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself.

Marjane Satrapi. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood.*

A timely and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution.

Philip Capuot. *Rumor of War.*

A riveting account of life in an infantry platoon in Vietnam.

Ji-Ji Jiang. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution*

A child's nightmare unfolds in Jiang's chronicle of the excesses of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution in China in the late 1960s.

Jamaica Kincaid. *A Small Place*

Kincaid here examines the geography and history of Antigua, where she was raised.

Esmeralda Santiago. *Almost a Woman*

After her family's arrival in New York City, Santiago faced the difficult process of assimilation.

Maxine Hong Kingston. *Woman Warrior*

A pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California.

Sinclair Lewis. *Babbitt*

A satire on American values, the main theme is the power of conformity and the vacuity of American life.

Scott Westerfeld. *The Uglies.*

Enter a world where your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise.

Madeleine L'engle. *Wrinkle In Time*

One stormy night a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother, Charles Wallace and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and fantastic journey.

R. D. Laing. *Politics Of Experience*

Goes beyond the usual theories of mental illness and alienation, and makes a convincing case for the 'madness or morality.'

Christopher Hitchens. *Letters To A Young Contrarian*

Inspires future generations of radicals, rebels, and angry young men and women in these essays on the importance of disagreement to personal integrity, informed discussion, and democracy itself.

Hal Niedzviecki. *Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became The New Conformity*

A blunt message for the army of tattoo and piercing enthusiasts, bloggers, skateboard warriors, and anyone else walking around with the smug certainty that they are one of a kind: Individuality is the new conformity.

Karen Cushman. *Loud Silence Of Francine Green*

Francine Green doesn't speak up much, and who can blame her? There's safety in silence.

Chris Crutcher. *Sledding Hill*

Eddie hasn't had an easy year First his father dies. Then his best friend Billy accidentally kicks a stack of Sheetrock over on himself, breaking his neck and effectively hitting tilt on his Earthgame.

Stephen King. *Tommyknockers*

A spaceship landed at the bottom of a garden and when it is uncovered, the citizens of Haven metamorphose into increasingly bizarre and dangerous creatures.

Yang , Gene Luen Yang and Lark Pien. *American Born Chinese*

The story of three apparently unrelated characters, including a boy who moves only to discover he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school.

Brian Mandabach. *Or Not*

Cassie Sullivan finds herself isolated in junior high hell when she stands up for her beliefs in a post-9/11 world.

Edith Wharton. *Age Of Innocence*

Deeply moving study of the tyrannical and rigid requirements of New York high society in the late 19th century and the effect of those strictures on the lives of three people.

Todd Strasser and Strasser. *Wave*

The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students.

Ursula K. Le Guin. *Left Hand Of Darkness*

This classic science fiction novel is the story of Winter, a planet with semi-arctic conditions and inhabitants all of the same sex.

Ayn Rand. *Anthem*

The unforgettable tale of a nightmarish totalitarian future-and the ultimate triumph of the individual spirit.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required #1: _____

2. Required #2: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

**BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2011
GRADE 11**

Welcome to Grade 11 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 11th grade English theme: "**Being American.**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **three books**, the two required readings and one additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
2. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book:** *The Assist* by Neil Swidey

3. Read at least one other "Being American" books from the list below.

All books below match the "Being American" theme. You must choose your third book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Choices:

Craig Robinson. *Game of Character: A Family Journey from Chicago to the Ivy League*

Robinson takes readers behind the scenes to meet his most important influences in his understanding of the winning traits that are part of his playbook for success.

Abdullah, Shaila. *Saffron Dreams*

This moving short novel describes the difficulties faced by a Pakistani immigrant whose husband is killed in the World Trade Center bombing.

Aswany, Alaa Al. *Chicago*

Looks at the lives of a group of Egyptian doctors doing advanced study at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago.

Barkhordar-Nahai, Gina. *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith.*

A magic realism account of several generations of Jewish women in Iran and then in contemporary LA.

Bernardi, Adria. *In the Gathering Woods.*

A collection of short stories about one family from the sixteenth century in Italy to the present in Chicago.

Amy Bloom. *Away*

A Russian Jewish immigrant to New York in the 1920's, gives up a comfortable life and heads west across the United States to Alaska in an attempt to get to Siberia and locate the daughter she thought was killed.

Michael Chabon. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.*

The story of the golden age of superhero comics is told through the life stories of two young Jewish men who drew them.

Edwidge Danticat. *The Dew Breaker*

This series of interlinked stories tells about the life of a Haitian immigrant who was a torturer in his native land and how his activities affected those around him.

Junot Diaz. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.*

The story of Dominican immigration to the United States, the horrors of the Trujillo regime, and one family's determination to overcome the curse of destiny.

Andre Dubus. *House of Sand and Fog*

When an Iranian refugee living in California buys a house at auction, he unwittingly becomes involved with its previous owner, a recovering addict, who feels the house was seized unfairly and wants it back.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*

The grandchild of Greek immigrants, who fled the massacre of Greeks in Turkey in the 1920's, has been raised female, only to discover when he hits puberty that he is actually male.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Interpreter of Maladies.*

Short stories concerning the adjustments that are made to the United States by Indian immigrants.

McClure, Wendy. *The Wilder Life: My Adventures in the Lost World of Little House on the Prairie.* Obsessed with Laura Ingalls Wilder...children's book editor and memoirist McClure attempts to recapture her childhood vision of "Laura World."

Bowden, Mark. *Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War*

This is military writing at its breathless best.

Taylor, Glenn. *The Marrow-Bone Marble Company.*

Loyal Ledford, a poor-as-dirt orphan, works the furnaces of the local glass factory, yet he plots his escape by joining the Marines. He soon finds himself in another purgatory--Guadalcanal--in the last years of WWII.

Taylor, Glenn. *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*

Karl Marlantes doesn't introduce you to Vietnam in his brilliant war epic--he unceremoniously drops you into the jungle, disoriented and dripping with leeches, with only the newbie lieutenant as your guide.

Junger, Sebastian. *War.*

The war in Afghanistan contains brutal trauma but also transcendent purpose in this riveting combat narrative.

Miller, James Andrew & Shales, Tom. *Those Guys Have All the Fun: Inside the World of*

ESPN.

ESPN began as an outrageous gamble with a lineup that included Australian Rules Football, rodeo, and a rinky-dinky clip show called Sports Center. Today the empire stretches far beyond television...

Wasdine, Howard E. & Templin, Stephen. *Seal Team Six: Memoirs of An Elite Navy Seal Sniper.*

SEAL Team Six is a secret unit tasked with counterterrorism, hostage rescue, and counterinsurgency. In this dramatic, behind-the-scenes chronicle, Howard Wasdin takes readers deep inside the world of Navy...

Conley, Dalton. *Honky.*

Conley, a sociology professor, brings to his analysis of race a unique experience in the social and racial maze of New York...his minority white status offered a perspective and insight into the analysis of American race.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Optional and a good idea: Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Boston Latin Academy
AP 11 English Language and Composition
Summer Reading List

2010

Welcome to the AP Language & Composition course and a year of lots of interesting reading and writing! Remember that the grade 11 curriculum focuses on American literature; however, the AP course and exam are mainly based on non-fiction reading. In order to assure that you master most of the required American literature and are familiar with some non-fiction reading, please follow the guidelines of this reading list. Be sure to bring all your typed notes on the first day of school. **Summer reading is mandatory to remain in English AP 11. Your summer reading will be worth at least 25% of your Term One grade.**

You are required to read each of the books from list one and three of the books from list two during the summer. Since there will be an essay, a test, or an oral report on the assigned books, be sure to take careful and thoughtful notes as you read.

LIST ONE: Required Readings

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Zora Neale Hurston
- **The Assist** Neil Swidey
(2010 BLA Summer Common Reading Book)

LIST TWO: Choose three of the following non-fiction works:

- *The Tipping Point* Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Year of Magical Thinking* Joan Didion
- *Tuesdays With Morrie* Mitch Albom
- *Fire* Sebastian Junge
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* Azar Nafisi
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* Rebecca Skloot
- *A Hope in the Unseen* Ron Suskind
- *If the Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* Ann Fadiman

Please use the formats below for your note-taking. Remember to bring all your **typed** notes on the first day of school.

Take notes on your reading based on the outline provided for the required fiction books as follows:

Title:

Author:

Setting:

Summary:

Major characters & descriptions of each:

Minor characters & descriptions of each:
Themes (list up to three):
Personal Reaction:

Take notes on the nonfiction reading based on the outline attached to this list. You may use either the SOAPStone or SOLIDD method. Be sure to write a detailed paragraph for each item.

Also, read essays from magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Newsweek*, etc., to become familiar with good writing topics and styles that will be helpful in preparing for the AP exam. If you have any questions or concerns, see Mrs. Shah in Rm. 311.

Be sure to fill in and bring the attached form with your summer reading notes.

NAME: _____

I have read the following books for the AP English Language & Composition course:

List One - Required Readings –

1) _Required #1: _____

2) _Common Reading Book: _____

List Two – Non-fiction selections:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Student's signature: _____

Parent / Guardian's signature: _____

Date: _____

SOLIDD

Syntax: how sentence structure affects the reader's attitude; short sentences: emotional; longer sentences: reasonable

Organization: how phrases and paragraphs are organized

Language: overall use of language (discourse), such as formal, informal, scholarly, colloquial, jargon

Imagery: vivid appeals to understanding through the senses

Details: facts included or omitted

Diction: word choice and its connotation / denotation

SOAPStone

Subject: What is the subject of the text (the general topic, content, or ideas contained in the text)? How do you know this? How does the author present the subject? Is it introduced immediately or delayed? Is the subject hidden? Or is there more than one subject?

Occasion: What is the rhetorical occasion (the time and place of the piece or the current situation)? Is it a memory, a description, an observation, a valedictory, an argument, a diatribe, an elegy, a declaration, a critique, a journal entry, or...?

Audience: Who is the audience (the group of readers to whom this piece is directed)? Does the speaker identify an audience? What assumptions exist about the intended audience?

Purpose: What is the purpose for the passage (the reason for its composition)? What is the speaker's purpose (the reason behind the text)? How is this message conveyed? What is the message? How does the speaker try to spark a reaction in the audience? What techniques are used to achieve a purpose? How does the text make the audience feel? What is its intended effect?

Speaker: Who is the speaker (the voice that tells the story)? Is someone identified as the speaker? What assumptions can be made about the speaker? What age, gender, class, emotional state, education, or...?

Tone: If the author were to read aloud the passage, describe the likely tone of voice. It is whatever clarifies the author's attitude toward the subject. What emotional sense pervades the piece? How does the diction point to tone? How do the author's diction, detail, images, language, and sentence structure convey his or her feelings?

BLA English 12 Summer Writing Requirement Summer 2011

Part One: SUMMER WRITING REQUIREMENT:

This summer, you will write drafts of what may become your college application essay next year. You will continue to craft this essay in your English 12 class.

Therefore, the more time you spend working on these drafts this summer, the more material you will have for next year!

Writing Assignment:

1. Choose TWO of the following "Common Application" writing prompts. Respond to each with a **500-750 word essay**.

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- Topic of your choice.

2. Ms. Wagner will publicize WHERE and TO WHOM you should send your essays to later this month. Your essays will be read by either business professionals in the Boston area or by staff members of area college writing centers. Either way, this is a great chance to receive personalized feedback on your essays from a leading member of the business community or an area college's writing center. These will be invaluable comments from the perspective of a community leader and will help guide you in continuing to craft your essay with the expertise of your English 12 teacher. Therefore, **you must check your email often after submitting your essays.** Additionally, **you must respond to your "reader's" questions or simply send a thank-you.**

Questions? Ask your current English teacher or email Ms. Wagner at mstracywagner@gmail.com or stop by room 233.

Part two: ENGLISH 12 SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT:

Welcome to Grade 12 at Boston Latin Academy! In order to help you get off to a perfect start we are providing you with a summer reading list. This reading will also help get you prepared for the 12th grade English theme: "**Utopia/Dystopia.**" When you come to school in September, you must have read at least **three books**, the two required readings and one additional book from the list below. You must choose from the list so that you will enter this grade armed with books to talk about that all ready match this grade's theme. **Summer reading counts for 25% of your Term One grade.**

You should bring your parental signature form and your dialectical journal with you on the first day of school. You must complete a dialectical journal entry for each book you read. Use the format below as your guide. You can see a thorough example of an actual entry if you go to <http://latinacademy.org/> and click on the summer reading link. This should be completed in a marble or composition notebook, which will also serve as your ELA notebook for Term One.

Quotation	Page #	Reaction and why you chose this quote.
You must have at least ten entries for each book. Each entry must be approximately a half-page in length. Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language that you find compelling. You should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.		This should be a full explanation and reaction to the quote you chose. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.

Required readings:

1. ***The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger**
2. **The Summer 2011 BLA Common Reading Book: *The Assist* by Neil Swidey**

3. Read at least one other "Utopia/Dystopia" books from the list below.

All books below match the "Utopia/Dystopia" theme. You must choose your third book from this list. Most blurbs are taken from the Amazon.com lists and reviews.

Ayn Rand. *Anthem*

Future society in which technological advancement is curtailed and individuality has been eliminated.

Philip K. Dick. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

A future bounty hunter who hunts down almost-human androids in 2019.

William F. Nolan. *Logan's Run*

Future society in which everyone is kept young through euthanization.

Pierre Boulle. *Planet of the Apes*

Planet run by apes who rules over primitive humans.

Kurt Vonnegut. *Player Piano*

Near-future society that is totally mechanized devaluing human life and eliminating the middle class.

Stephen King. *The Stand*

A superflu destroys most of the human race and the survivors are divided into two camps of good and evil.

Paul Turner. *Utopia*

Island society which came to be associated with the "perfect" society.

Samuel Butler. *Erewhon*.

Fictional country that provides a satire of Victorian society. .

Stanley Kubrick. *A Clockwork Orange*

Story of a rebellious adolescent criminal living in a bleak but believable view of the future where the government conditions people to behave how they want them to, stripping away many rights.

Margaret Atwood. *Oryx and Crake*

Snowman sleeps in a tree and just might be the only human left on our devastated planet. He is not entirely alone, however, as he considers himself the shepherd of a group of experimental, human-like creatures. **Cormac McCarthy. *The Road***

Profoundly dark, told in spare, searing prose -- a post-apocalyptic masterpiece.

Kazuo Ishiguro. *Never Let Me Go*

The students of Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside, are so special that visitors shun them, and only by rumor do they discover their unconventional origins and strange destiny.

Alan Moore. *Watchmen*

The story concerns a group called the Crimebusters and a plot to kill and discredit them. The characterization is as sophisticated as any novel's.

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*.

Teen beauty queens. A Lost-like island. Mysteries and dangers. No access to email. And the spirit of fierce, feral competition that lives underground in girls, a savage brutality that can only be revealed by a journey...

Zuckoff, Mitchell. *Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Rescue and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission in World War II*

Near the end of World War II, a plane carrying 24 members of the US military, including nine Women's Army Corps (WAC) members, crashed into the New Guinea jungle during a sightseeing excursion.

Wilson, Daniel H. *Robocalypse*.

In the not-too-distant future, robots have made our lives a lot easier: they help clean our kitchens, drive our cars, and fight our wars--until they are turned into efficient murderers by a sentient artificial intelligence.

Joyce, Graham. *The Silent Land*.

Near the outset of this gently haunting fantasy thriller from British author Joyce (Requiem), a freak avalanche buries Zoe and Jake, a couple on a skiing holiday near the Pyrenean resort town of Saint-Bernard-en-Haut.

Cronin, Justin. *The Passage*.

Cronin is a remarkable storyteller whose gorgeous writing brings depth and vitality to this ambitious epic about a virus that nearly destroys the world, and a six-year-old girl who holds the key to bringing it back.

Smith, Scott. *The Ruins*.

The Ruins is going to be America's literary shock-show this summer, doing for vacations in Mexico what Jaws did for beach weekends on Long Island. -- Stephen King.

Larsson, Stieg. Any of *The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo Series*.

Cases rarely come much colder than the decades-old disappearance of teen heiress Harriet Vanger from her family's remote island retreat north of Stockholm, nor do fiction debuts hotter than this muckraker.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE FORM

I verify that my son/daughter _____ has read the following books during the summer and has completed the required outlines.

1. Required: _____

2. 2011 Common Book: _____

3. Choice #1: _____

4. Optional and a good idea: Choice #2: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

BLA AP 12 Literature Summer Reading 2010-2011

BLA English 12 Summer Writing Requirement Summer 2011

Part One: SUMMER WRITING REQUIREMENT:

This summer, you will write drafts of what may become your college application essay next year. You will continue to craft this essay in your English 12 class.

Therefore, the more time you spend working on these drafts this summer, the more material you will have for next year!

Writing Assignment:

1. Choose TWO of the following "Common Application" writing prompts. Respond to each with a **500-750 word essay**.

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- Topic of your choice.

2. Ms. Wagner will publicize WHERE and TO WHOM you should send your essays to later this month. Your essays will be read by either business professionals in the Boston area or by staff members of area college writing centers. Either way, this is a great chance to receive personalized feedback on your essays from a leading member of the business community or an area college's writing center. These will be invaluable

comments from the perspective of a community leader and will help guide you in continuing to craft your essay with the expertise of your English 12 teacher. Therefore, **you must check your email often after submitting your essays.** Additionally, **you must respond to your “reader’s” questions or simply send a thank-you.**

Questions? Ask your current English teacher or email Ms. Wagner at mstracywagner@gmail.com or stop by room 233.

Part two: AP ENGLISH 12 SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT:

The summer reading program is an essential feature of the *Boston Latin Academy AP Literature and Composition* class. This program will get us started immediately on the first day of school and will prepare you for our first piece of literature. From the beginning, you need to be prepared to take this class very seriously. **You must complete the summer reading; it is not optional.** These works may appear on the AP exam, and a close knowledge of them gained during summer reading will therefore improve your chance of success not only on the test, but also in this year-long class.

The summer reading program consists of two components: firstly, there are FIVE books that must be read over the summer; secondly, a brief essay based on a previous actual AP Free-Response Prompt must be completed for EACH book. Each essay should be approximately 1,000 words (roughly three pages each), typed, and supported with textual evidence (quotes, page references, MLA format). Five Free-Response Prompts are included; you can select and apply any one of these for each individual book.

These brief essays are due on the FIRST day of class in September. While reading five books and writing approximately 15 pages of analysis over the summer may initially appear overwhelming, this is the pace and expectation of all AP Literature students in this class.

AP 12th summer reading program should be addressed to BLEUSSLER@AOL.COM

The FIVE required summer books:

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer

Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

The Help, Kathryn Stockett

The Assist, Neil Swidey

The FIVE AP Free-Response Prompts:

- A. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Write an essay that shows how a character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions and moral values. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- B. Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. From this novel, explain how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- C. Some works of literature use the element of time in a distinct way. The chronological sequence of events may be altered, or time may be suspended or accelerated. Show how the author's manipulation of time contributes to the effectiveness of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- D. One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in the novel struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.
- E. Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures – national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question. Choose a novel in which a character responds to such a cultural collision. Write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.

