

ENGLISH 10 GT SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Hello amazing people! Congratulations on completing your first year of high school! I hope it was a good year, full of personal lessons and growth. I know it may seem like the beginning of the next school year is several months away, however, it is still essential to challenge your mind during summer break, and for this class you will have the opportunity to do a summer reading assignment! Below you will find your novel choices and a writing assignment that will be due during the second week of October 2023. The English 10GT course may feel overwhelming now, but I guarantee as you begin the course and interact with others in class, you will quickly fall in love with it and realize your concerns were not necessary. I am a very understanding teacher, and I will do everything in my power to help you succeed. I look forward to meeting all of you and having a great school year together.

Very respectfully,

Mr. Marrero

Directions: You will find all the instructions you need below, I went ahead and took the liberty of giving you quick summaries of the offered books, to hopefully allow you to choose one accordingly more easily.

BETWEEN NOW AND THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER 2023, YOU NEED TO:

- Obtain and read **one** of the following works:
 - *The Stranger* – Albert Camus
 - *Crime and Punishment* - Fyodor Dostoevsky
 - *A Long Way Gone* – Ishmael Beah

- After reading, respond to the following prompt:
 - In a well-developed essay, discuss the challenges the protagonist in your novel faces, and by what means they eventually overcome these challenges. (Is it through the aid of others, do they fail at overcoming the challenges, or is it through sheer will?)

 - Be sure to not just identify the challenges the character faces, but also how and why they find themselves facing such challenges, and in detail, the means of which they tackle and overcome the challenges.

Things to consider and you will NEED to include in your response:

- Who is the character and what challenges do they face?
- How do they find themselves in this predicament? Is it a result of their own actions, or is there something or someone in the background working against them?
- At least 2 full pages
- MLA format (Utilize the Purdue OWL website!)
- Utilize relevant evidence from your chosen work
- Avoid plot summary

- Do not simply consult SparkNotes/CliffsNotes/Shmoop/SnapGPT, etc. and attempt to complete this assignment – it will **not** go well. Students caught plagiarizing from any source will fail the assignment and will not be given the opportunity to complete a redo.

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- Please feel free to contact me anytime during the summer, Mr. Marrero (dmarrero@bcps.org) with any questions or concerns about the assignment!

As an aid to you for the Summer Reading Assignment to help you select a text!

1. Obtain and read one of the following works:

The Stranger - Albert Camus:

A shipping clerk living in French Algiers in the 1940s, Meursault is a young, detached but ordinary man. The novel begins with Meursault receiving a telegram informing him of his mother's death. He attends her funeral, surprising everyone with his calm and nonchalant demeanor surrounding not only his mother's death, but also his lack of concern for human life. A story about the lack of humanity that exists within some people, and how it causes us to question those around us.

Themes: The meaninglessness of human life, change and interchangeability, indifference

Significant Quote: “Marie came that evening and asked me if I’d marry her. I said I didn’t mind; if she was keen on it, we would get married. Then she asked me again if I loved her. I replied, much as before, that her question meant nothing or next to nothing—but I supposed I didn’t.”

Crime and Punishment - Fyodor Dostoevsky:

Crime and Punishment follows the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in Saint Petersburg who plans to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker, an old woman who stores money and valuable objects in her flat.

Themes: Criminality, Morality, Guilt, Coincidence and Free Will

Significant Quote: “Power is given only to him who dares to stoop and take it ... one must have the courage to dare.”

A Long Way Gone – Ishmael Beah:

A Long Way Gone is the true story of Ishmael Beah, who becomes an unwilling boy soldier during a civil war in Sierra Leone. When he is twelve years old, Beah's village is attacked while he is away performing in a rap group with friends.

Themes: Hope and life, The Horror of War, Companionship, Hope, and Self

Significant Quote: “I joined the army to avenge the deaths of my family and to survive, but I've come to learn that if I am going to take revenge, in that process I will kill another person whose family will want revenge; then revenge and revenge and revenge will never come to an end...”

2. After reading, respond to the following prompt:

In a well-developed essay, discuss the challenges the protagonist in your novel faces, and by what means they eventually overcome these challenges. (Is it through the aid of others, do they fail at overcoming the challenges, or is it through sheer will?)

Be sure to not just identify the challenges the character faces, but also how and why they find themselves facing such challenges, and in detail, how they tackle and overcome the challenges.

Use the following Note Sheet to guide your thinking as you begin drafting your Essay!

Title:

Author:

<p>Who is the character and what are the challenges they are facing?</p>	
<p>How do they find themselves in this predicament? Is it a result of their own actions, or is there something or someone in the background working against them?</p>	

How does the character work to resolve the challenges and what is the resolution of the story? (How does the story end?)

Significant Quotes that relate to the challenges the character faces.