

Honors English 11 Summer Reading Assignment 2011

1. Read two books: one nonfiction book and one book that you choose.

Here are some of the nonfiction titles available through the school. You may also choose your own title.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X Alex Haley

The Color of Water James McBride

A Hope in the Unseen Ron Suskind

Hunger for Memory Richard Rodriguez

I. Write a **typed 150-word minimum** rationale for each book. Include why you chose to read the books. (see below for an example)

Example of Rationale

I chose to read *The Color of Water* for the summer reading assignment after looking at the reviews on Amazon.com. Many of the reviewers described the book as “powerful” and “moving,” so I thought that it would be a story that would hold my attention. The title itself was intriguing to me, and I wanted to learn more about its relationship to the story. After reading a synopsis of the book online, I thought that the narrative would appeal to me: I too have faced many struggles growing up, and I can sympathize with the obstacles James McBride had to overcome to become a successful writer. He is the same age as my parents, so I was also interested to see if his experiences growing up in that time period were similar to what my parents went through. I discussed the book with my parents, and even though they did not read it, they were able to confirm some of the details about life in the city during the 1960s, especially in terms of race relations.

II. Write a **typed 300-word minimum** response to one of the following questions (**should be completed for each book**):

- A. Why would you recommend this book? Include specific examples from your book to illustrate your points.
- B. What is the genre of your book? How is it a good example of that genre? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
- C. Describe the main conflict/argument in your book. Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
- D. Why is setting so important in your book? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
- E. How is your book relevant to present-day culture? Use specific examples from the book to illustrate your points.
- F. Would you describe the main character as a hero? Explain your answer and use specific examples from the book to illustrate your point.