



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM  
HARRISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
501 HAMILTON STREET  
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**Maureen Kroog**  
*Acting Superintendent of Schools/  
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**Summer Reading for Grades 9-12**

*The Harrison High School English Department requires all students to complete a summer reading assignment designed to support an appreciation of reading, while also providing an opportunity for students to reinforce their reading skills throughout the summer months. In order to foster a sense of community within Harrison High School, all of our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders (with the exception of AP Language) will complete the same summer assignment about respect. **Seniors and students enrolled in AP English Language or AP English Literature will complete separate assignments.***

**Assignment:**

Choose TWO essential questions from the following list and relate them to your summer reading book. To receive full credit on this assignment, you should use quotes and evidence from the book to support your connections to the essential questions you choose.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

1. How does one show respect to gain respect?
2. To what extent has society influenced the level of respect one shows to different groups of people/cultures?
3. How has modern day social media influenced the notion of respect?
4. How has the meaning of respect changed over time?
5. How does feeling respected impact the way someone views themselves and others?

**The purpose of summer reading is to encourage the enjoyment of reading and to develop your ability to choose books for yourself. Because we want your summer reading experience to stimulate an exciting conversation about books both with your peers and with your teachers, the following list contains suggestions only. When choosing your own book, keep the universal theme of respect in mind.**

**Grade 9:** *The Dangerous Art of Blending In* by Angelo Surmelio, *American Street* by Ubi Zoboi, *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds, or *42 Faith* by Ed Henry

**Grade 10:** *Educated* by Tara Westover, *I Am Not Your Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez, *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon, or *The Truths We Hold* by Kamala Harris

**Grade 11:** *The Selection* by Kiara Cass, *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi, *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, or *This Raging Light* by Estell Laure

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**Grade 11: Advanced Placement Language**

All students enrolled in Advanced Placement Language and Composition will read Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* and complete the *AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment Packet 2018-2019* (Available on the [Harrison School District Website](#).)

**Grade 12: College Essay Assignment**

All of our seniors will complete a college application essay.

As an introduction to the college essay genre, please read Martha Merrill's New York Times article at: <http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/23/tip-sheet-essay/>. Additional books on college essay writing are available for your review at the school and public libraries.

Next, prewrite and draft a response (approximately 500 words) to one of the 2019-2020 Common Application Essay Prompts available on the Common Application website: <https://www.commonapp.org/>.

**Grade 12: Advanced Placement Literature**

In addition to the college essay assignment, all students enrolled in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition will complete the following:

Read BOTH of the following books before writing the essay: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë

Essay Prompt: A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select either *East of Eden* or *Wuthering Heights* and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

**Please note that this summer reading assignment will be posted on the Harrison School District Website.**

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