

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING

As a student entering Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, you should take some time this summer to read. The motif for this coming year is “development of identity”. All of these pieces are modern, interesting, and feature characters as they grapple with their identity and place in the world. Please read **one** of the following books, with particular attention to the development of personal identity in the work. Give consideration as well to your personal identity and how it conflicts or does not conflict with the world around you — we will be exploring this conflict (or lack thereof) in the coming year.

Dalene Matthee ***Fie!s Child***

This 350 page book by the South African writer, Matthee, is a touching tale of a mother and a child. It weaves a story of the oppression blacks have faced in South Africa yet the triumph that can occur as well. It deals with family issues of trust and discipline and a young boy’s search for his identity through two different locations and races. This will most likely only be found online but is in stock on Amazon. Please order early and give yourself two-three weeks to read this work.

Colson Whitehead ***The Underground Railroad***

This 320 page book written by African American Pulitzer Prize author, Colson Whitehead, is about a slave, named Cora, who escapes on the Underground Railroad, which is imagined as a real railway. She is then taken to several states all which depict different stages and times in America from indentured servants, to free blacks, all the struggles of the Pre-Civil War blacks in America at the time. You could find this at any local bookstore or library or you could order online.

Khaled Hosseini ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***

This 432 page book by Afghan-American novelist Khaled Hosseini, is about the women of Afghanistan and the sacrifices and trials they have had to endure. It is just as good as *Kite Runner* and was just used on the 2011 AP exam. This delves into a lot of wonderful issues about women, love, loss, war, death, and friendship. You could find this at any local bookstore or library or you could order online.

Sherman Alexie ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

In 230 pages, this book follows Junior, a boy born on a reservation, as he grows up and attends an all-white public high school. It is based loosely on Alexie’s individual experience as a native American, and employs graphic language and imagery to represent the harsh conditions present on the reservation — if edgy language is not your thing, it would be wise to choose another book. You could find this at any local bookstore or library or you could order online.

Please review the book right before returning to school because you will be asked to write about your summer reading upon your return.

One final suggestion for parents and students alike: consider reading *Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania* by Frank Bruni! We have so many students and parents who could benefit from reading this work BEFORE the senior year.