

English 9-11 Summer Reading Requirements

Over the summer you will be required to read two things for English: *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens, and *A Raisin in the Sun*, a play by Lorraine Hansberry (you can find the pdf of this online if you don't wish to buy it). You will be required to annotate both. We will be working with the texts at some point through the year. The summaries for both are below:

Where the Crawdads Sing is about an unforgettable young woman, abandoned at age ten to survive alone in the wild coastal marsh of North Carolina. For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet fishing village. Kya Clark is barefoot and wild, unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when the popular Chase Andrews is found dead, locals immediately suspect her.

But Kya is not what they say. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life's lessons from the land, learning the real ways of the world from the dishonest signals of fireflies. But while she has the skills to live in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world—until the unthinkable happens.

In *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Owens juxtaposes an exquisite ode to the natural world against a profound coming of age story and haunting mystery. Thought-provoking, wise, and deeply moving, Owens's debut novel reminds us that we are forever shaped by the child within us, while also subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

The story asks how isolation influences the behavior of a young woman, who like all of us, has the genetic propensity to belong to a group. The clues to the mystery are brushed into the lush habitat and natural histories of its wild creatures.

Set on Chicago's South Side, *A Raisin in the Sun* revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans, however: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school.

The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. Sacrifice, trust, and love among the Younger family and their heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration. Winner of the NY Drama Critic's Award as Best Play of the Year, it has been hailed as a "pivotal play in the history of the American Black theatre." by *Newsweek* and "a milestone in the American Theatre." by *Ebony*.

You will also be required to choose at least one of the following suggested texts (if you have a book in mind that you plan to read over the summer that is not on this list, run it by me and I will let you know if it is appropriate):

Fiction

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy
Go Tell it on the Mountain by James Baldwin
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
City of Thieves by David Benioff
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Nonfiction

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand
Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond
Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley
Flyboys: A True Story of Courage by James Bradley
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Black Boy by Richard Wright
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Graphic Novel

Maus by Art Spiegelman
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White by Lila Quintero Weaver
Incognegro by Mat Johnson
V for Vendetta by Alan Moore