Read “Everyday Use” by Alice Walker. As you read, consider the essential questions for our first unit, “A Crash Course in Literary Analysis”:

- How does an author utilize a literary technique to convey something deeper?
- What determines literary merit?
- What makes textual evidence effective and appropriate?
- How does a writer implement textual evidence in a compelling way?
- How is an author’s attitude conveyed through writing?

After reading, respond to the following journal prompt:

- In an informal style, share your thoughts and reflections on your reading experience using knowledge from your English class last year. Consider what the author wants readers to think about or takeaway from this text. Be sure to fully explain and support your thoughts and feelings about specific aspects of the story with evidence from the entire text.

Assignments that reflect any form of academic dishonesty (plagiarism/cheating) will earn a zero (without the possibility of resubmission).

- Exemplary journals will contain:
  - 250-500 words,
  - Textual evidence,
  - Minimal summary,
  - Original thoughts/personal insights (no SparkNotes, Shmoop, CliffsNotes, etc.),
  - Reflective of a student’s best effort,
  - And shared with your English teacher via Google Docs.

Looking for supplementary reading to prepare for this year? Here are some options from our team!

Mr. Preacher – *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

Mr. Minsker – *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin

Ms. Hartshorn – *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ms. Belew – *There There* by Tommy Orange

Mr. Nissly – *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck