Summer Reading – Class of 2024

Read “The Summer of Ice Cream” Tope Folarin (link below). As you read, consider the essential questions for our first unit of study:

- What is honor? How do our own biases, loyalties, and reasoning shape this definition?
- How might honorable words and actions cause tension in relationships?
- What motivates people in the face of adversity?
- How can storytelling imbue characters with, or strip them of, honor?

Link to story: [https://www.vqronline.org/fiction/2014/10/summer-ice-cream](https://www.vqronline.org/fiction/2014/10/summer-ice-cream)

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.
- Type your assignment and bring it to class with you on the first day of school.
- 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 or other online study guides!)
- Writing that is reflective of a student’s best effort

Looking for supplementary reading to prepare for this year? Here are some recommendations from the Pre-AP English I teaching team!

Ms. Batler recommends The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night by Time by Mark Haddon: “This novel tells the story of a 15-year-old boy on the autistic spectrum who, after the vicious killing of his neighbor’s dog, embarks on an investigation à la his hero Sherlock Holmes.

Ms. Grymes recommends Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler: “Fifteen-year-old Lauren Olamina bravely navigates the aftermath of an economic crisis and global warming of a post-apocalyptic California community in the early 2020s.”

Mr. Jenkins recommends Inventing by Graham Gardener: “A tweenager decides to become a different person and ends up being invited to join a secret society which is orchestrating a reign of terror at his new school.”

Mr. Nissly recommends Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut: “Vonnegut’s wit will make you lol while he blows your mind with his philosophical critique on humanity.”

Ms. Postler recommends Life of Pi by Yann Martel: “Stranded on a lifeboat at sea, a boy must learn to coexist with a tiger or face death.”

Ms. Zuravleff recommends The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky: “Charlie, an introverted high school freshman, recounts his coming-of-age story through a series of letters to an unnamed friend.”