

## American Literature & Composition 10

### MCC Summer Reading Assignment 2020-2021

Greetings! I hope you'll see this assignment as an *opportunity* to read instead of a task to complete. Reading has been proven to reduce stress, increase your vocabulary, improve your memory, and strengthen your analytical thinking skills, in addition to many other benefits. I try to read a little bit every day, and I hope this assignment will encourage you to do the same.

Please note that your **choice text** must be purchased and **turned in to Mrs. Silva** the **FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL** as it will be added to our classroom library.

**Assignment #1** - In order to facilitate a wide variety of interests, I've provided a list of "choice" texts beginning on page 3 of this document. First, read through the list and select your top 3 choices. Then join our "American Literature & Composition 10" Google Classroom (**Code: rhkymzk**). Next, make your text selection by responding to the question posted in Google Classroom no later than **6/12/2020**.

**Please DO NOT SELECT a text you have read before either independently or for any other course at MCC.**

**Assignment #2** - Read your choice text and complete the assignment posted in Google Classroom by **8/7/2020** (NOON). For the assignment, you will need to address all of the following areas. Skip a line between each bulleted request.

- ★ Title, Author, Publication Date
- ★ If you were giving a 1-minute speech on this text, recommending it to a group, highlighting the essentials, what would you say? I am looking for a paragraph for this response (10-12 sentences).
- ★ Lastly, explain the academic value of the text you chose to read. I am looking for a paragraph for this response (10-12 sentences).

**OPTIONAL Assignment: Challenge** yourself to read 1-2 additional books from the "choice" text list. You do not have to purchase the additional book(s). With a library card, you can check books out at the public library including online options. Here is the link to the [Muskegon Area District Library- Free Resources](#) including how to easily get a library card! Another idea would be to borrow books from classmates. If you look in Google Classroom, you can see what everyone else is reading from the "choice" list. Complete the attached sheet for **each** book that you read to earn

**ADDITIONAL CREDIT** to start the school year! You can earn additional credit for up to 2 books. The sheet(s) must be turned in the first week of school to earn additional credit. Please contact me if you have a book that is not on the list that you want to read for this option.

[ksilva@muskegoncatholic.org](mailto:ksilva@muskegoncatholic.org)

# BOOK CHALLENGE PERSONAL RESPONSE

*You may print multiple copies of this sheet out, or you may recreate this handout on a piece of notebook paper.  
Please remember to fill out one of these sheets for EACH book that you read.*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Title & Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answer the following questions in complete sentences.*

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not? Would you recommend it to other people? What types of people might like this book?

2. What struggles did you encounter as you read? (Was there anything you found difficult? Were there vocabulary words or concepts you didn't understand?)

3. Choose an idea that the book presents and respond personally to that idea. (For example, maybe the book is a coming of age story about a kid who's pressured to do something they don't want to do. You could write about a time that something similar happened to you, showing how you can relate to the character)

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## American Literature & Composition 10 “CHOICE” Text Options

Notice that each text has a number next to it; this is the number of students who may read each book. If the specified number of classmates have already selected the text, you must choose another by editing your response in Google Classroom.

### Fiction Selections:

***The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds (3)** - Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died—although she did, and it sucks. But he wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. So while Dad's snagging bottles of whiskey, Matt's snagging fifteen bucks an hour. Not bad. But everything else? Not good. Then Matt meets Lovey. Crazy name, and she's been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey never cries. She's tough. Really tough. Tough in the way Matt wishes he could be. Which is maybe why he's drawn to her, and definitely why he can't seem to shake her. Because there's nothing more hopeful than finding a person who understands your loneliness—and who can maybe even help take it away.

***Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson (2)** - Monday Charles doesn't show up to school for several days and only her best friend, Claudia, seems to notice or care. Claudia is left to face the harsh reality of life without her best friend and must solve the mystery of Monday's disappearance on her own. This book is a tragic-yet-entertaining love letter to Washington, D.C. and to the thousands of Black and Brown girls who go missing without a trace or any concern from the public. It's both heartbreaking and empowering.

**Favorite quote:** “In this life, you don't always get what you want, but you must dance through it.”

***A Very Large Expanse Of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi (3)** - Shirin is a 16-year-old Muslim girl who is tired of being stereotyped. Set in a small-town high school one year after the events of Sept. 11, *A Very Large Expanse Of Sea* is an unexpected love story about a girl, a boy, basketball and a breakdance crew. Even though this book takes place nearly 20 years ago, the story of a Muslim girl trying to live her life despite antagonism from the world around her still rings true today. Shirin's words and actions are an inspiration to anyone who feels the need to defend themselves against ignorance.

**Favorite quote:** “If a decision you've made has brought you closer to humanity, then you've done the right thing.”

***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman (3)** - Two teens must learn the “art of killing.” A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

***American Street* by Ibi Zoboi (3)** - Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit's west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

***Still Life with Tornado* by A.S. King (2)** - Sixteen-year-old Sarah can't draw. This is a problem, because as long as she can remember, she has “done the art.” She thinks she's having an existential crisis. And she might be right; she does keep running into past and future versions of herself as she wanders the urban ruins of Philadelphia. Or maybe she's finally waking up to the tornado that is her family, the tornado that six years ago sent her once-beloved older brother flying across the country for a reason she can't quite recall.

***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez (3)**

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family.

***Children Of Blood And Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi (2)** - Magic used to run through the veins of the citizens in the fictional land of Orisha until the brutal monarchy destroyed the practice by killing the Maji, like Zélie's mother. Now, with the help of a rogue princess and her brother, Zélie has a chance to restore magic to her homeland. But a vengeful prince is on her tail. Inspired by West African folklore, *Children Of Blood And Bone* is a fast-paced story about magic, oppression, power, and fighting back. Even though this is a fantasy, this book eloquently portrays some real-world problems. The best part is this is the first book in a trilogy so there's more magic to come!

**Favorite quote:** "They don't hate you, my child. They hate what you were meant to become."

***Under the Feet of Jesus* by Helena Maria Viramontes (3)** - This is a story of the lives of men, women, and children who labor under dangerous conditions in California's fields. The novel picks up after a small plane releases a white shower of deadly pesticide, which washes over the face of Alejo, a teenager who is perched in a pear tree. Alejo is drenched with poison, much to the horror of Estrella, who has fallen in love with him.

***The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner (2)** - Dill isn't the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal that reverberated throughout their small town, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends, Travis and Lydia, have his back. girl. But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending--one that will rock his life to the core.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo (3)** - Xiomara Batista feels unheard but has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

***The Radius of Us* by Marie Marquardt (2)** - What happens when you fall in love with someone everyone seems determined to fear? Ninety seconds can change a life — not just daily routine, but who you are as a person. Gretchen Asher knows this, because that's how long a stranger held her body to the ground. When a car sped toward them and Gretchen's attacker told her to run, she recognized a surprising terror in his eyes. And now she doesn't even recognize herself. Ninety seconds can change a life — not just the place you live, but the person others think you are. Phoenix Flores Flores knows this, because months after setting off toward the U.S. / Mexico border in search of safety for his brother, he finally walked out of detention. But Phoenix didn't just trade a perilous barrio in El Salvador for a leafy suburb in Atlanta. He became that person — the one his new neighbors crossed the street to avoid. Ninety seconds can change a life — so how will the ninety seconds of Gretchen and Phoenix's first encounter change theirs?

***The Red Umbrella* by Christina Gonzalez (2)** - A moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents

sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution. Lucía Álvarez still leads a carefree life, dreaming of parties and her first crush. But when the soldiers come to her sleepy Cuban town, everything begins to change. Freedoms are stripped away. Neighbors disappear. And soon, Lucía's parents make the heart-wrenching decision to send her and her little brother to the United States—on their own.

### **NonFiction Selections:**

*The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found* by Martin W. Sandler **(2)**

*A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919* by Claire Hartfield **(2)**

*This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration* by Linda Barrett Osborne **(2)**

*Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* by Steve Sheinkin **(2)**

*The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy B. Tyson **(2)**

*First Flight Around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race* by Tim Grove **(2)**

*Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman **(2)**

*Ida Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business-and Won!* by Emily A. McCully **(2)**