

## Composition & Literature 9

### 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.

**Your choice text must be purchased and turned in to Mrs. Silva the FIRST DAY of SCHOOL as it will be added to our classroom library for others to read.**

**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 "Composition and Literature 9" Google Classroom (**Code: 4v5daeb**). Next, make your text selection by responding to the question posted in Google Classroom by **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).
- ★ We will be using this text to create a Digital Book Talk, so please be sure to bring it to class the first day of school.

**CLASS Text: *Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck- We will begin our semester with this text as a class, so make sure you buy or borrow a copy no later than **8/14/2020**.

**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 if turned in on or before **8/19/2020**. Please contact me if you would like to read a book that is not on the list.

**Questions? Concerns? Contact Mrs. Silva [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:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Composition and Literature 9 “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:

***Monday’s Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson (3)** - 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.”

***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (2)** - Justyce McAllister begins writing private letters to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to cope with the microaggressions he has to deal with as one of the only black students at his preparatory high school. When tragedy strikes, will the letters be enough to keep him from falling off the edge? Similarly to *The Hate U Give*, *Dear Martin* is a raw, sometimes harsh look into how police brutality, racism and microaggressions seep into the lives of everyday people and impacts their relationships with each other and within themselves.

**Favorite quote:** “If nothing in the world ever changes, what type of man are you gonna be?”

***Children Of Blood And Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi (3)** - 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.”

***Turtles All The Way Down* by John Green (2)** - Aza is trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of a billionaire and trying to keep her life together by being a good friend, daughter and student while struggling with a never-ending spiral of her own intrusive thoughts. As far as mental illness representation goes, this book gets it right. John Green’s writing style and his own experiences with OCD allow readers to feel immersed in the mind of someone struggling and hopefully, understood if they are struggling themselves.

**Favorite quote:** “Thoughts are only thoughts. They are not you. You belong to yourself, even when your thoughts don’t.”

***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson (3)** - This is the story of Jade, who wants to leave her poor neighborhood behind and travel on a school community service trip to Costa Rica. Instead, she finds herself forced to join a mentorship organization she doesn't think she needs. However, it's in that program where Jade learns to find her voice and help others see her for who she truly is. This book teaches readers to see the value in everyone's story and never assumes you know a person just because of where they come from. The main character must push back against stereotypes placed on her, but she must also challenge the way she sees the people in her life and the way she values her own neighborhood.

**Favorite quote:** "You have to believe you are worthy of love. That you are worthy of your wildest dreams."

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely (2)** - This tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn. Two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country, bitterly divided by racial tension.

***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.

***Legend* by Marie Lu (2)** - What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo (3)** - Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone.... A convict with a thirst for revenge. A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager. A runaway with a privileged past. A spy known as the Wraith. A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums. A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.

***The Beginning of Everything* by Robyn Schneider (3)** - The way Ezra Faulkner sees it, everyone gets one great tragedy, after which life should roll on predictably. His middle-school best friend, Toby, gets his when a roller-coaster accident brands him a social misfit, and Ezra gets his a week before junior prom, when he, the tennis star and class president shoo-in, is injured by a distracted driver. When senior year begins, Ezra and his destroyed leg slide easily into a new social circle, eschewing the surface attempts of former friends to stay connected and instead joining Toby on the debate team. That's where he meets Cassidy, a beguiling transfer student who helps Ezra discover his new self. To Ezra, it's an idyllic relationship, so when it collapses, his worldview collapses, too—hadn't he just recovered from his one great tragedy?

***Boy21* by Matthew Quick (3)** - Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Bellmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can,

putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay. Russ has just moved to the neighborhood, and the life of this teen basketball phenom has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21--taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need.

## **NonFiction Selections:**

### ***Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town* by Warren St. John (3)**

St. John presents the remarkable, inspiring story of a persevering female coach, a soccer team of refugee boys, and the Georgia town that is their home. With conviction and skill, Jordanian Luma Mufleh established and coached three soccer teams known as the Fugees. Her players were haunted by memories of war-torn homelands and personal tragedies and were struggling to adjust to life in the United States. However, her high expectations and willingness to help families impacted her young players. Despite challenges to locate a practice field, minimal funding for uniforms and equipment, and zero fans on the sidelines, the Fugees practiced hard and demonstrated a team spirit that drew admiration from referees and even their competitors. Featuring pivotal soccer games and anecdotes about interactions between a coach and her players, tension among the boys, family responsibilities, and a town wrestling with its changing identity, St. John delivers a vivid, cohesive story about hope and determination.

### ***Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines* by Paul Fleischman (3)**

Paul Fleischman offers teens an environmental wake-up call and a tool kit for decoding the barrage of conflicting information confronting them. We're living in an Ah-Ha moment. Take 250 years of human ingenuity. Add abundant fossil fuels. The result: a population and lifestyle never before seen. The downsides weren't visible for centuries, but now they are. Suddenly everything needs rethinking – suburbs, cars, fast food, cheap prices. It's a changed world. This book explains it. Not with isolated facts, but the principles driving attitudes and events, from vested interests to denial to big-country syndrome. Because money is as important as molecules in the environment, science is joined with politics, history, and psychology to provide the briefing needed to comprehend the 21st century.

### ***Ida Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business-and Won!* by Emily A. McCully (3)**

Born in 1857 and raised in oil country, Ida M. Tarbell was one of the first investigative journalists and probably the most influential in her time. Her series of articles on the Standard Oil Trust, a complicated business empire run by John D. Rockefeller, revealed to readers the underhanded, even illegal practices that had led to Rockefeller's success. Rejecting the term "muckraker" to describe her profession, she went on to achieve remarkable prominence for a woman of her generation as a writer and shaper of public opinion. This biography offers an engrossing portrait of a trailblazer in a man's world who left her mark on the American consciousness.

### ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba (3)**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him.