



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering
12th Grade Summer Reading
2017-2018

All-school Summer Reading

The faculty of MLK is excited to re-institute an all-school summer reading book to promote community and the goals of lifelong learning we, as teachers and staff, seek to instill in you, our reason for being here.

Many of you have heard or seen a recent film called *Hidden Figures*. This movie was based on a book that we have chosen for every student and faculty member to read. Our goal is to create opportunities for all members of our community to discuss the important issues addressed in *Hidden Figures* and have experiences with other students in other classes and grade levels to enrich these experiences. When we return to school, we hope to have some classroom and out-of-class activities during which all students will get to learn more about math, science, history, and many other topics addressed in *Hidden Figures*.

To that end, please carefully read *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly before the first day of school. While there is not a required summer written assignment, you will be expected to know key details from this informational text and will be tested at the start of the school year. Various classes will explore the book in different ways, including through projects, writing assignments, and class discussions. Your thorough reading of the book will be expected and will enhance your participation in these assignments. Upon your return to school in August, please bring your own copy of the text with you for the first several weeks.

12th Grade Summer Reading

All 12th grade students at MLK are responsible for reading three major works over the summer, including *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition*. While there are no required summer writing assignments, students will be responsible for engaging with each text, and should be aware of key details, themes, and characters in preparation for assessments and class discussion, to be completed in the first weeks of the 2017/18 school year.

All 12th grade students, whether enrolled in English IV Honors or AP English Literature and Composition, are required to read a Pulitzer Prize winning novel (excluding *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Old Man and The Sea*). Students who choose to read these expressly forbidden novels will receive a 50 on the assessment completed for the Pulitzer Prize novel.

Finally, AP English Literature and Composition and Honors English IV students will be required to read a respective novel:

AP English Literature and Composition

The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai

In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga in the Himalayas lives an embittered judge who wants only to retire in peace, when his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, arrives on his doorstep. The judge's cook watches over her distractedly, for his thoughts are often on his son, Biju, who is hopscotching from one gritty New York restaurant to another. Kiran Desai's brilliant novel illuminates the consequences of colonialism as it collides with the modern world.

Honors English IV

Homegoing, by Yaya Gyasi

This *New York Times* best seller begins with the story of two half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control: one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver. Written with tremendous sweep and power, *Homegoing* traces the generations of family who follow, as their destinies lead them through two continents and three hundred years of history.

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to class assignments and discussion stemming from all three works. Testing on the books will begin the second day of school. Students should report to school with copies of all three books.