

Summer Reading 2020: Grades 9, 10, + 11 ([en español](#))

Dear Students and Families,

We are eager to provide resources for Summer Reading this year! Even though we aren't currently present in school, Excel teachers still want to provide opportunities for students to read over the summer and reflect on their reading. In addition, advisors are looking forward to learning more about the students in their groups in the fall. Below you'll see the assignment for summer reading and an opportunity for students to share thoughts and experiences with their future advisor in anticipation of working together in September.

What is the assignment?

The assignment is the same for each grade level, including for students who are moving from the 8th grade to the 9th grade. Your assignment will count as the first grade in your English class, and will be used during orientation and in your first meeting with your advisor.

Your assignment is here in this document. Here are the requirements:

- **First**, sign up for the Summer Reading [Google classroom](#) using this code: **q5q5vcy**
- **Part 1:** Choose at least one book to read. You may re-read a book you've read before, even revisiting a favorite book from middle school!
- Create a visual representation of the key themes in your book.
- **Part 2:** Write a letter to your future advisor about who you are and what your story is, using the questions in the assignment to guide you.

Resources: Where can I find a book?

Here are places where students can find the book(s) they choose to read over the summer.

1. www.amazon.com/books
 - a. **Amazon:** To order books to be delivered straight to your home

2. www.bpl.org/books/
 - a. **Boston Public Libraries:** Use this link to search for books at any Boston Public Library, including the East Boston Public Library

3. <https://www.chelseama.gov/public-library>
 - a. **Chelsea Public Library**

4. www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks
 - a. **Audio books:** A list of free audiobooks on different platforms

5. Excel Academy Charter **High School**
 - a. 401 Bremen St. East Boston
 - b. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the same time as meal distribution
 - c. We want to limit the spread of disease. Please read **the summaries below of the books available** to review the synopsis of the books available at Excel campuses **before** you go to choose a book.

6. **Finally**, if you're interested in a particular book, you can Google the title of the book followed by "**PDF**" to see if it's available online in PDF format!
 - a. Examples: The House on Mango Street: www.tinyurl.com/r6joc5y
 - b. The Alchemist: www.tinyurl.com/y4akm7r7
 - c. El alquimista (en español): www.tinyurl.com/ybtncrtt

Part 1: Read your book, and create a visual representation of its most important and interesting parts.

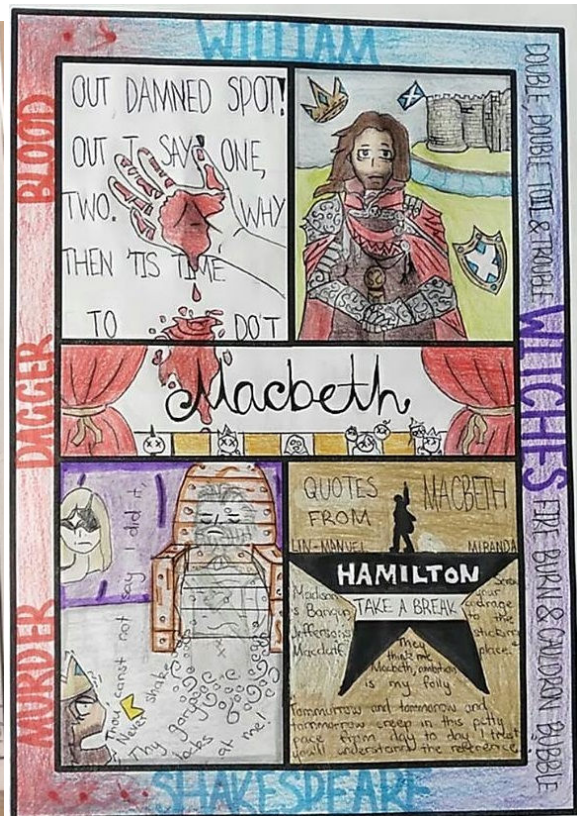
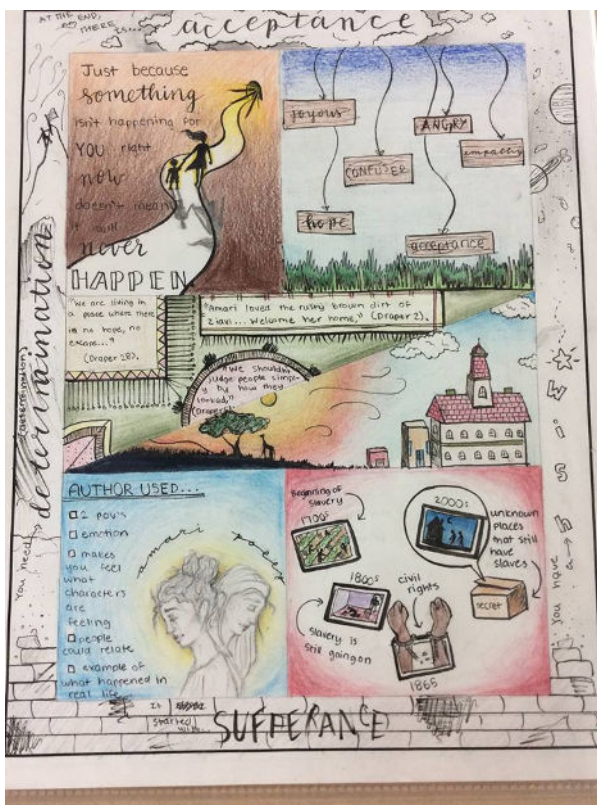
Directions: For your independent reading book, you will complete a **one-pager** - an **artistic representation** of the book. This will count as your **first English grade** of the school year.

Your one page must include:

- At least **4 panels (boxes of art)**
- The **title and author**
- A **quote** that you feel is **central** to the story your book tells
- A **review** - would you tell other students to read it?
- A representation of 1-2 essential **characters**
- A **summary** of the story

This assignment is due **at orientation**. It may be handed in as a hard copy or as a digital design.

See some examples here!



Part 2: Write a letter to your future advisor.

Directions: After finishing the book, write a 1-2 page letter (by hand, or in a Google doc uploaded to the Summer Reading Google classroom) introducing yourself to your new advisor answering the following questions:

- What **book** did you read?
- **Why** did you select the book? What does it say about you that you picked that book?
- What **lessons or themes** did you take from the book? How do those **connect to your life or story**?
- What was your **approach** to completing this assignment? (Did you do it all at once? Over time? Early? Last-minute? etc.) What does that say about you as a student?
- What is most important for your advisor to know about you in order to have a **positive and productive relationship**?
 - What is something your **previous advisor** did that was really helpful for you?
- How are you **spending your time** this summer?
 - Trips? Hobbies? Time with family and friends?
- The last few months have been **challenging and different due to the coronavirus and racism in our country**. What has that experience been like for you?
 - What has **supported you** during this time?
- What are you **most looking forward to** this coming school year?
 - Do you have any **goals** you want to accomplish this year?

For the first day of orientation, bring your book, your visual assignment, and your letter (or upload it to the Summer Reading Google classroom).

- 9th grade orientation: August 25 - August 28
- 10th, 11th, and 12th grade orientation: August 28

If you have any questions about this assignment, or have a hard time finding a book, please feel free to email Ms. de Rios, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction (jderios@excelacademy.org) or call the high school at 617-326-3574.

Summaries: Books available at Excel!

The Alchemist: The Alchemist tells the story of a young shepherd named Santiago who is able to find a treasure beyond his wildest dreams. Along the way, he learns to listen to his heart and, more importantly, realizes that his dreams, or his Personal Legend, are not just his but part of the Soul of the Universe.

The Hate U Give: The Hate U Give is Angie Thomas's first novel about a teenage girl who grapples with racism, police brutality, and activism after witnessing her black friend murdered by the police. The book became an immediate young adult bestseller and was adapted into a movie shortly after its release.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time: Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: This book gives us a rare glimpse, from the inside, of women's lives in revolutionary Iran. It is a work of great passion and poetic beauty, a remarkable exploration of resilience in the face of tyranny, and a celebration of the liberating power of literature.

Breaking Night: Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a New York Times scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League. Breaking Night is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman's indomitable spirit to survive and prevail, against all odds.

The Other Wes Moore: Moore introduces the book, explaining that it is the story of two men born in Baltimore with the same name: Wes Moore. While one of them grows up to achieve great success, the other will spend the rest of his life in prison.

My Beloved World: My Beloved World is the memoir of associate Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor. Appointed by President Obama in 2009, Sotomayor is the first ever Hispanic justice in the court's history. My Beloved World follows Sotomayor's path from her childhood in the Bronx to the highest legal office in the country.

On The Come Up: Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But now that her mom has unexpectedly lost her job, food banks and shutoff notices are as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it—she has to make it.