



WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL
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June 2019

Dear Tenth Grade English Honors Student:

We would like to wish you a wonderful, productive summer. As an incoming English 2 Honors student, your summer reading assignment is to read *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother*, by James McBride, in addition to *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng, our White Plains High School One School, One Book.

McBride's memoir was a New York Times bestseller for two years, has been translated into more than 16 languages, and has sold more than 2.1 million copies worldwide. It tells the story of James McBride and his white, Jewish mother Ruth, as James goes on a journey to uncover the mystery of his mother's past as well as unlock his true identity. Told in two voices, both that of his mother and his own, *The Color of Water* sets the standard for modern day memoir writing. Most importantly, it is a powerful, resonating exploration of what family really means.

We encourage you to employ the close reading strategies you have learned over the years by **keeping track of the characters and the details of their identities at the beginning, middle, and end of the books.** Please keep a **reader journal** (take notes of characters, conflicts, settings, etc.) as you read each book. You may use loose-leaf or a notebook, but keep track of the page numbers your notes refer to.

Additionally, **you are to write a letter to a character in each book. The letter should be thoughtful and reference specific events and/or conflicts the character faces within the story.** (Suggested length for each letter should be approximately one page, double spaced.) In September, you will be asked to share your observations and apply your knowledge of each book through class activities and assessments.

We hope you enjoy this reading experience. Given that this class is considered a Pre-AP course, we have high expectations for you. We are excited for a successful and curious year together, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

*Tracy Alfalla
Meaghan Chase
Olympia Cykiert
Alexandra Klemstine
Dennis Polanco*