

# CVSR English Summer Reading Assignment

## Entering Sophomore

Read one fiction and one non-fiction book from the list. Respond to the questions on the following pages. ***To receive full credit, you must respond to 1 question about the fiction book and 1 question about the non-fiction book.*** Answers can be typed or handwritten. Imagine that the person reading your response has not read the book. Include specific details explaining the characters, plot, and setting.

### **Choose One Fiction Book**

John Corey Whaley - Noggin

Angie Thomas – The Hate U Give

Laurie Halse Anderson - Wintergirls

Gabby Rivera – Juliet Takes a Breath

Rande Abdel Fattah - Does My Head Look Big in This

Erika L. Sánchez – I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

*\*Mariko Tamaki – This One Summer*

*\*Ta-Nehisi Coates – Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet (Book 1)*

Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely – All American Boys

### **Choose One Non-Fiction Book**

Ta-Nehisi Coates – Between the World and Me

Sarah Miller – The Borden Murders

Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka – I Will Always Write Back

Junger – Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging

Valeria Luiselli – Tell Me How It Ends

Andrea Gonzales, Sophie Houser– Girl Code

*\*Marjane Satrapi - Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*

Sundquist - We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly a True Story

*\*Graphic Novel*

**FICTION: answer ONE of the following questions about the fiction book you chose.**

1. Choose two quotations from the book that show how a character changes. Do not use two random quotations. The quotations that you select should reveal character growth. You must include the page numbers.

A. Select a quotation from the first half of the book and copy the quotation and page number. Write a 5-sentence paragraph explaining what this quotation reveals about the character at the beginning of the book.

B. Select a second quotation from the end of the book and copy down the quotation and page number. Write a 5-sentence paragraph explaining how the character has changed.

2. A photograph and 2 paragraphs.

Take a picture of yourself holding the fiction book that you selected. Make sure that the book can be clearly seen. Print the photo and attach it to your response to the following prompts:

A. Write a 5-sentence paragraph explaining why you chose to read this book. Your response must explain how the physical copy of the book influenced your decision. Here are some suggestions for how to approach this question:

Describe the colors and images used on the cover and explain why they appealed to you. What is the book's title and why did it capture your attention? What information from the description on the back cover made you suspect that you would enjoy this book? Were there any reviews or quotations about the book printed on the front or back cover? If so, what did the reviewers identify that you thought might interest you?

B. After finishing the book, write a second 5-sentence paragraph that explains if you liked the book. Use specific examples from the book to explain what you liked or did not like about the story.

3. A drawing and a paragraph.

-Create a new cover design for this book. Your image should be at least the same size as the original cover. Your cover design must include color, the book's title, the author's name, and an illustration.

- After completing your cover design, write an 8-10 sentence paragraph that first briefly describes the book's original cover, and then explains why your illustration is an appropriate cover for the book. Your response should explain how the colors/images relate to the characters and plot.

4. Pick a scene in which you disagreed with how a character handled a situation/person and rewrite it in the way you think it should have happened. Imagine that the reader is not familiar with the plot of the book. First include specific details that explain the situation. Then explain how you would change the scene. Your response should be 8-10 sentences.

5. Write a letter to a character in the book. Your letter should clearly identify a problem that the character is experiencing and offer advice for dealing with this problem. Your letter should be 8-10 sentences.

**NON-FICTION: answer ONE of the following questions about the nonfiction book you chose.**

1. Write 2 short paragraphs:

A. Quote the first line of the book. **Write a 5-sentence paragraph** that responds to the following questions: Why do you think the author chose the opening line he or she did? Did you like it? What were your feelings after finishing the first chapter of this book? Include **1 example** from the first chapter that made you want to keep reading. (If you read the first chapter of a book and do not want to keep reading--pick a different book!).

B. After you finish the book, write a 5-sentence paragraph explaining if the first chapter successfully introduced you to the plot and characters. Did you expect the story to turn out the way it did?

2. Write a 10-sentence paragraph describing a character's personality trait that you'd like to develop within yourself over the years. How does the character demonstrate this trait? Your response should include 2 specific examples from the book that demonstrate this personality trait. Include 2 quotations. Copy the quotation and page number. Why do you like this trait?

3. Create an original picture, photo, or image that illustrates a character or an important moment in the character's life. Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph explaining how the art piece represents the character. Do not simply select a single image from a magazine or photocopy the cover of the book. If you are unable to draw the pictures yourself or take a photo, create a collage. Include the image.

FICTION

John Corey Whaley - Noggin

Travis Coates, 16, is dying of cancer, so he accepts an offer from a cryogenic group to have his head removed and frozen with the hope that it would be attached to another body in the future and he could be reanimated. Five years later, he "wakes up" with a new body and is still 16. The biggest problem is that Travis's best friend and his girlfriend are now 21 years old and have moved on with their lives while he feels like he has simply taken a nap.

Angie Thomas – The Hate U Give

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Laurie Halse Anderson - Wintergirls

Lia and Cassie had been best friends since elementary school, and each developed her own style of eating disorder that leads to disaster. Now 18, they are no longer friends. Despite their estrangement, Cassie calls Lia 33 times on the night of her death, and Lia never answers. As events play out, Lia's guilt, her need to be thin, and her fight for acceptance unravel in an almost poetic stream of consciousness in this startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative.

Gabby Rivera – Juliet Takes a Breath

Nineteen-year-old Juliet Palante writes a you-changed-my-life letter to her favorite feminist author and is granted a summer internship at the author's home in Portland, OR. Leaving her loving Puerto Rican family in the Bronx is difficult, but Juliet also welcomes the chance to enter a new environment: her mother has been communicating with her through closed doors ever since Juliet told her that she is a lesbian and has a girlfriend. In Portland, Juliet discovers a new world.

Rande Abdel Fattah - Does My Head Look Big in This

11th-grader Amal is smart, funny, outspoken, a good student, and a loyal friend. She is also a devout Muslim who decides to wear the hijab, or head covering, full-time. The story tells of her emotional and spiritual journey as she copes with a mad crush on a boy, befriends an elderly Greek neighbor, and tries to help a friend who aspires to be a lawyer but whose well-intentioned mother is trying to force her to leave school and get married. Amal is also battling the misconceptions of non-Muslims about her religion and culture.

Erika L. Sánchez – I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

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. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought.

Mariko Tamaki – This One Summer (Graphic Novel)

Every summer, Rose and her parents vacation at a lakeside cottage. The rest of the world fades away as Rose reunites with her friend Windy and delves into leisurely games of MASH, swimming, and the joy of digging giant holes in the sand—but this summer is different. Rose is on the cusp of adolescence; she's not ready to leave childhood behind but is fascinated by the drama of the local teens who are only a few years older, yet a universe apart in terms of experience. They drink, they smoke, they swear. As Rose and Windy dip their toes into the mysterious waters of teen life.

Ta-Nehisi Coates – Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet (Book 1) (Graphic Novel)

When a superhuman terrorist group calling itself The People sparks a violent uprising, the land famed for its incredible technology and proud warrior traditions will be thrown into turmoil. As suicide bombers terrorize the population, T'Challa struggles to unite his citizens, and a familiar villain steps out of the shadows. If Wakanda is to survive, it must adapt — but can its monarch, one in a long line of Black Panthers, survive the necessary change?

Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely – All American Boys

Rashad Butler is a quiet, artistic teen. He heads to Jerry's corner store on a Friday night to buy chips, and ends up the victim of unwarranted arrest and police brutality: an event his white schoolmate Quinn Collins witnesses in terrified disbelief. Quinn is even more shocked because the cop is Paul Galluzzo, older brother of his best friend and Quinn's mentor since his father died in Afghanistan. As events unfold, both boys are forced to confront the knowledge that racism in America has not disappeared and that change will not come unless they step forward.

**NONFICTION**

Ta-Nehisi Coates – Between the World and Me

What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, from his time at Howard University to the Civil War, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society.

Sarah Miller – The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century

Lizzie Borden took an axe, gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father forty-one. In a compelling, linear narrative, Miller takes readers along as she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby

Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka – I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives

The true story of two young pen pals who forge a life-altering connection. In 1997, Caitlin, a typical 12-year-old girl from a middle class American family, began writing to Martin, a studious 14-year-old from a Zimbabwe slum. In her letters, Caitlin described her life, which consisted of shopping trips, quarrels with friends, and problems at school. Eventually, Martin revealed the harsh realities of his life to Caitlin, who began sending money and gifts. What started as chatty letters turned into a lifeline for Martin and his family.

Sebastian Junger – Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging

Combining history, psychology, and anthropology, *TRIBE* explores what we can learn from tribal societies about loyalty, belonging, and the eternal human quest for meaning. It explains the irony that-for many veterans as well as civilians-war feels better than peace, adversity can turn out to be a blessing, and disasters are sometimes remembered more fondly than weddings or tropical vacations. *TRIBE* explains why we are stronger when we come together, and how that can be achieved even in today's divided world.

Valeria Luiselli – Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions

In the warrens of New York City's federal immigration court, an adolescent boy from Honduras confronts a thoroughly confused immigration bureaucracy with the help of his translator, who is the author of this book. He is just one of thousands of immigrant children longing for permanence in this country, but we get to see him up close. With Luiselli as our guide, we navigate the corridors of a system that tries and fails to reconcile America's long-standing welcome of the poor, the terrorized, and the adventurous with its current fear and mistrust of immigrants.

Andrea Gonzales, Sophie Houser – Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done

Perfect for aspiring coders everywhere, *Girl Code* is the story of two teenage tech phenoms who met at Girls Who Code summer camp, teamed up to create a viral video game, and ended up becoming world famous.

Marjane Satrapi - Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (Graphic Novel)

In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen. *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression.

Josh Sundquist - We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly a True Story

When I was twenty-five years old, it came to my attention that I had never had a girlfriend. At the time, I was actually under the impression that I was in a relationship, so this bit of news came as something of a shock.

Why was Josh still single? To find out, he tracked down each of the girls he had tried to date since middle school and asked them straight up: What went wrong?