



10TH GRADE ENGLISH

2019 Summer Reading

Name: _____

Summer Reading Expectations:

- a) This summer, all students entering the 10th grade need to read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.
It is a powerful science fiction story about a young black woman who is married to a white man. Both the woman and her husband end up traveling back and forth to the time of slavery in the US and getting caught in intense situations involving the woman's ancestors and other characters on a plantation.
- b) In addition, all students must write a lengthy letter-essay. The details are on the back. It is due on the first day of school.
- c) If you would like to earn higher than a B on this assignment and earn honors credit, you must also read the honors book, *Krik? Krak!* by Edwidge Danticat. This is a powerful short story collection about the Haitian experience, both for Haitians and Haitian-Americans. Each of the stories, as you'll realize, is connected to the others in some way, as they depict both the struggles and the triumphs of a wide array of characters. You must read the book and come to school prepared to have a book-group-style conversation with me and other honors-seeking students about the plot and important themes of the book. If you demonstrate a solid comprehension of the text during this conversation, and if you are able to speak thoughtfully on the major themes of the book (struggle, individualism, survival, courage, relationships between women), you can start the year with an A for the course and honors credit for the first semester.
- d) Students are also strongly encouraged to read *at least* a book a week to keep their "reading muscles" in shape for the fall. No skill is more important than reading. Whether you are reading fun magazines or "baby mama drama," it is important to try to read as much as you can during the summer, especially with the 10th grade MCAS on the horizon.

10th Grade English Summer Writing Assignment

- In addition to reading *Kindred*, students must complete a typed letter essay over the summer that addresses several questions raised by the novel.
- A letter-essay is formatted like a personal letter written to your humanities teacher, but it is meant to be deep and thoughtful like a longer essay for school.
- The letter needs to be at least three pages long. Make sure to include each of the three parts.
- This assignment is due on the first day of school, in your teacher's bin.

Dear Humanities Teacher,

Part 1: Text-to-Self Connection (at least 1 page)

- Which passage in the book did you find most powerful? Why?
- Answer in at least two paragraphs.
- In the first paragraph, describe in detail the passage in the story that you connected to most. Include at least one quote from this passage.
- In the second paragraph, describe in detail why you found this passage so powerful.

Part 2: Character Change (at least 1 page)

- How does Dana *or* Kevin change over the course of this book? Pick one character.
- Describe one specific way that he or she changes during the course of the story.
- Find a scene from the beginning, middle, and end of the book that shows this change.
- Describe each scene and include a quote from each one. Make sure you explain how Dana or Kevin is changing in each scene.

Part 3: Reflecting on a Theme (at least 1 page)

- What are you taking away from this book in terms of its larger morals or lessons?
- Pick one and only one of the following themes: racism, family, violence, or the connection between past and present.
- Reflect on just one of these themes and what you think the book suggests about this theme.
- Include at least a few quotes and refer to at least a few scenes from the book in which this theme comes up.

Sincerely,

[your name]