

To: Students Enrolled in English 12 AP Literature and Composition for the 2017-18 School Year

From: English Department

Date: May 15, 2017

In preparation for your work in English 12 AP Literature and Composition next year, the English Department is requiring that you read the following novel:

Ali, Monica. *Brick Lane*. New York: Scribners, 2004.

Students are responsible for acquiring the text on their own. We have notified the Montclair Book Center, Watchung Booksellers, Barnes and Noble, and the Montclair Public Library of the reading requirement, so copies should be available to purchase or borrow. You may also purchase a copy, new or used, from an on-line bookseller.

In a review of the novel in the *Washington Post*, Chris Lehmann writes, “in a feverishly fragmenting and often character-resistant fictional landscape, *Brick Lane* manages to do many of the things that fiction does best: to create a fully rounded, satisfyingly complicated world of its own that opens onto our own lives, provoking us to measure ourselves by its terms rather than vice versa.”

During the first week of school, students will be discussing the novel and writing an in-class essay. It would be useful, therefore, to take some notes on the novel as you read. Consider the elements of fiction: character development, plot structure, narrative voice, setting, symbols, imagery, figurative language, and tone.

If you have any questions about this reading assignment before the school year ends, please contact your teacher. If you have questions over the summer, contact Ms. Sally Rembert at [srembert@mpsdnj.us](mailto:srembert@mpsdnj.us)