

To: Students Enrolled in English 10, English 11, English 12H, and Patterns courses (outside of the small learning communities) for the 2017-18 School Year

From: English Department

Date: June 2, 2017

In preparation for your work in your English class next year, the English Department is requiring that you read one of the following novels during the summer break:

- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *Drown* by Junot Díaz
- *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan
- *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline
- *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart
- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

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.

During the first weeks of school, students will be discussing the novel and writing an in-class essay. When reading, consider how the character(s) are met with setbacks, obstacles, and/or failure; how they grow and mature because of their experiences; and, how they may question or challenge beliefs and ideas. It would be useful, therefore, to take some notes on the novel as you read. It is strongly recommended that you take notes by annotating the text, keeping a reading log, or keeping Cornell Notes. If you go to the MHS website, you will be able to access each of these note taking helpers..

If you have any questions about this summer reading, please contact Ms. Sally Rembert, srembert@mpsdnj.us.

We hope you enjoy your summer reading experience.

* Books are available for students who are in financial need. Email srembert@mpsdnj.us.

Annotation Quick Guide

While reading, annotate your text using the symbols below to organize your notes:

✓ Use a star to mark something you read which seems interesting. Make a note in the margin (or on a Post-It) as to *why* it is interesting.

? Use one question mark if something you read raises a question in your mind. Write that question in the margin (or on a Post-It).

? ? Use two question marks if something you read seems confusing.

✎ Use a plus sign when you make a connection between something in the text and personal, historic, cultural, and/or literary knowledge.

▷ Use a triangle for predictions about what is yet to come in the reading.

☐ Use a check mark when the reading confirms a prediction that you made.

X Use an X when the reading disproves a prediction that you made.

! Use an exclamation point when what you are reading strikes you as significant or really important in the plot, theme, or character development in the text. Use an exclamation point, if you believe the information is something you will definitely need later.

☐ Use a box to build your vocabulary, by boxing the words you encounter that get repeated, that seem important, or that are unknown to you. (Make sure to look up the unknown words!)

**CORNELL NOTES
SHEET**

Name _____

Book _____

QUESTIONS

NOTES

SUMMARY: Write 4 or more sentences describing specific learning from these notes.