



ALVERNO HEIGHTS ACADEMY

ENGLISH 9 SUMMER READING

The goal of summer reading is to reinforce the reading habits and skills acquired in the previous grades and to build on common prior knowledge when introducing new reading strategies and literature themes. The incoming 9th grade students are required to read two books during the summer: *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas and *The Color of Water* by James McBride. The books chosen are rich in vocabulary and contain classic themes. Students will be tested on both books when they start their fall semester.

Along with reading the books, students will complete an essay for *Funny in Farsi* that examines Firoozeh's identity as an immigrant in America and is due on the first day of class. I encourage students to keep an open journal while they read or to simply note important/interesting ideas in the book. The responses or annotations will be helpful in remembering important parts of the book before the test is taken on the second day of class for *Funny in Farsi*. A creative assignment for *The Color of Water* is due during the second week of classes.

Enjoy your summer reading!
Ms. Carnighan



THE COLOR OF WATER

Funny in Farsi

English 9 Required Reading



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ENGLISH 9 HONORS SUMMER READING

The goal of summer reading is to reinforce the reading habits and skills acquired in the previous grades and to build on common prior knowledge when introducing new reading strategies and literature themes. The incoming 9th grade students are required to read two books during the summer: *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas and a choice of one: *The Color of Water* by James McBride or *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, or *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. The books chosen are rich in vocabulary and contain classic themes. Students will be tested on both books when they start their fall semester.

Along with reading the books, students must complete an essay for *Funny in Farsi* that examines Firoozeh's identity as an immigrant in America and is due on the first day of class. A test and a project on one of the autobiographies are due during the second week of classes. I encourage students to keep an open journal while they read or to simply note important/interesting ideas in the book. The responses or annotations will be helpful in remembering important parts of the book before the test is taken on the second day of class for *Funny in Farsi*. A test and a project on one of the autobiographies are due during the second week of classes.

Enjoy your summer reading!
Ms. Carnighan

Born a Crime or Becoming

THE COLOR OF WATER

Funny in Farsi

English 9 Honors Required Reading

UNDERSTANDING YOUR READING AND ASSIGNMENTS

English 9 Summer Reading Books:

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas

The Color of Water by James McBride

Essay for Funny in Farsi

Prompt: Examine Dumas' developing identity as an immigrant in America over the course of the novel.

Introduction: Includes an "attention grabbing" opening, book title, author, necessary background information, and a strong thesis statement

3 Body Paragraphs: Includes well-developed paragraph that should contain no less than 6 sentences

Conclusion: Includes a summary of main points and a strong concluding statement

Project Options for The Color of Water

Choose a project that will best demonstrate your understanding and enjoyment of the book. This is a great opportunity to express your best creative effort! Be prepared to present and explain your work.

1. Illustrations of Scenes (snapshots)/Graphic Novel (Digital or Hand Drawn)

If you were the artist in charge of making twelve illustrations for the book, what 12 scenes would you illustrate? Use pencil or a fine black markers to make the illustrations. Each snapshot illustration should include a caption explaining the scene you selected and reasoning for its importance.

2. Plot Diagram Collage (Digital or Hand Drawn)

Make a visual collage that includes characters, settings, and plot (include conflict, rising action, climax, falling action), and most importantly the theme of the book. You may use magazine cut-outs, drawings of your own, real objects, be creative.

3. Media Presentation - using iMovie or Google Slides

Create one Media presentation outlining the characters, settings, and most importantly the theme of the book. A minimum of 12 slides is required. Please be creative and make sure your final presentation contains visual appeal.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR READING AND ASSIGNMENTS

English 9 Honors Summer Reading Books:

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas

The Color of Water by James McBride, or *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, or *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

Essay for Funny in Farsi

Prompt: Examine Dumas' developing identity as an immigrant in America over the course of the novel.

Introduction: Includes an "attention grabbing" opening, book title, author, necessary background information, and a strong thesis statement

3 Body Paragraphs: Includes well-developed paragraph that should contain no less than 6 sentences

Conclusion: Includes a summary of main points and a strong concluding statement

Project Options for *The Color of Water* or *Born a Crime* or *Becoming*

Choose a project that will best demonstrate your understanding and enjoyment of the book. This is a great opportunity to express your best creative effort! Be prepared to present and explain your work.

1. Illustrations of Scenes (snapshots)/Graphic Novel (Digital or Hand Drawn)

If you were the artist in charge of making twelve illustrations for the book, what 12 scenes would you illustrate? Use pencil or a fine black markers to make the illustrations. Each snapshot illustration should include a caption explaining the scene you selected and reasoning for its importance.

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