

**\*IF you did the “Hero’s Journey” Assignment last summer, scroll down to Option B**

**12th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment with Ms. Candlin**

**Part I. What makes a hero?**

**Introduction:** Have you ever felt like you’re the star of the movie that is your life? Chances are, the answer is yes. We all tend to see ourselves as protagonists, even heroes in our life’s journey. Authors know this to be true and often tell stories about a singular character in order to explore the qualities that make a person heroic (or anti-heroic) within a specific set of circumstances. In order to prepare for our study of morality next year, you will learn about the archetype of the hero’s journey over the summer and then read a book in which the narrator fulfills or veers away from the archetype of the hero. Finally, you will write a 3 page paper, a short video or a visual representation that explains how the narrator fulfills or fails to fulfill the definition of a hero.

**Tasks:**

1. Watch this video about the hero’s journey at least twice. Take notes or make an annotated drawing that captures the different stages of the hero’s journey:  
<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-makes-a-hero-matthew-winkler>.
2. Read: Choose one of the novels below. Do some research on the books beforehand in order to choose the one that fits your reading level and interest. As you read, track how the protagonist follows or veers away from the different stages of the hero’s journey. Is the narrator a hero? Why or why not?

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz

*Decoded* by Jay-Z

*Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld

*Feed* by M.T. Anderson

3. **Think/Write:** Write a 3 page paper, make a short video, write a poem or a rap, or create a visual representation that explains how the narrator does or does not fulfill the definition of a hero. Make sure that your assignment includes evidence from the text in the form of summary, direct quotes, or a paraphrase.

If you are unable to purchase the novel or memoir, you may borrow one from the school before the end of the year. See Ms. Candlin (Room 601) to get a copy.

Part II. Choose 4-6 books from the list on the following page or your own reading list to read on your own before you return to school in September.

## **Option B**

### **12th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment with Ms. Candlin**

Part I. What is the danger of a single story?

**Introduction:** In Ms. Whittemore’s 11th grade class, students examined how dominant narratives shape reality and our expectations of what is “normal.” According The Inclusive Teaching initiative at the University of Michigan:

*“A dominant narrative is an explanation or story that is told in service of the dominant social group’s interests and ideologies. It usually achieves dominance through repetition, the apparent authority of the speaker (often accorded to speakers who represent the dominant social groups), and the silencing of alternative accounts. Because dominant narratives are so normalized through their repetition and authority, they have the illusion of being objective and apolitical, when in fact they are neither.*”

#### **Tasks:**

1. Paraphrase the University of Michigan’s definition of a “dominant narrative.” Then, provide one example of a dominant narrative that you have encountered in your life. This may include a pattern you notice on social media, a story you learned about history or some aspect of history, or an expectation that you feel pressure to conform to.
2. Watch this video of Chimamanda Adichie’s lecture, “The Danger of a Single Story” [https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en). Watch it at least twice and pause frequently. Take notes or make a diagram that captures her arguments and evidence. You will turn your notes in on the first day of school.
3. Read: Choose one of the novels below. Do some research on the books beforehand in order to choose the one that fits your reading level and interest. As you read, consider how the narrative conforms to or veers away from the dominant narrative. In what ways does the text challenge the “single story” that Adichie addresses in her lecture.

*Drown* by Junot Diaz

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

3. **Think/Write:** Write a 3 page paper, make a short video, write a poem or a rap, or create a visual representation that explains how some aspect of the book you read reinforces, challenges, or

complicates a dominant narrative. Make sure that your assignment includes evidence from the text in the form of summary, direct quotes, or a paraphrase.

Part II. Choose 4-6 books from the list on the following page or your own reading list to read on your own before you return to school in September.

*Texts for Grades 11 and 12*

Title	Author
<p><i>A Place to Stand</i>  <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>  <i>Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.</i>  <i>The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game</i>  <i>Divergent</i>  <i>The Maze Runner</i>  <i>Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children</i>  <i>The Wolf of Wall Street</i>  <i>American Gods</i>  <i>Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness and Survival</i>  <i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i>  <i>My Sister’s Keeper</i>  <i>Room</i>  <i>Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison</i>  <i>Gone Girl</i>  <i>Sharp Objects</i>  <i>Pet Cemetery</i>  <i>Teen Angst</i>  <i>Keesha’s House</i>  <i>Looking for Alaska</i>  <i>Ender’s Game</i>  <i>4,000 Days: My Life and Survival in a Bangkok Prison</i>  <i>The Lovely Bones</i>  <i>If I Stay</i>  <i>Where She Went</i>  <i>Lord of the Flies</i>  <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>  <i>The Hobbit</i>  <i>The Princess Bride</i>  <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>  <i>Water for Elephants</i>  <i>The Night Circus</i>  <i>Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year Old GI</i>  <i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i>  <i>The Beach</i>  <i>The Mitch Rapp Series</i>  <i>Patient Zero</i>  <i>Jurassic Park</i></p>	<p>Jimmy Santiago Baca  Khaled Hosseini  Luis Rodriguez  Michael Lewis  Veronica Roth  James Dashner  Ransom Riggs  Jordan Belfort  Neil Gaiman  Liz Murray  Jeanette Walls  Jodi Picoult  Emma Donahue  Piper Kerman  Gillian Flynn  Gillian Flynn  Stephen King  Ned Vizzini  Helen Frost  John Green  Orson Scott Card  Warren Fellows  Alice Sebold  Gayle Forman  Gayle Forman  William Golding  J.D. Salinger  J.R.R. Tolkien  William Goldman  Harper Lee  Sara Gruen  Erin Morgenstern  Ryan Smithson  Bill Bryson  Alex Garland  Vince Flynn  Jonathan Maberry  Michael Crichton</p>

*The Coldest Winter Ever*  
*It's Kind of a Funny Story*  
*Wintergirls*  
*Ready Player One*  
*The Book Thief*  
*All the Light We Cannot See*

Sistah Souljah  
Ned Vizzini  
Laurie Halse Anderson  
Ernest Cline  
Markus Zusak  
Anthony Doerr