

# ***11th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment with Ms. Candlin***

**Hi Juniors!**

**Please find below a two-part summer assignment. You can do both parts, one part, or create your own assignment. The most important thing is that you find a way to read over the summer. When you complete the summer assignment, send it to me at [jcandlin@sof.edu](mailto:jcandlin@sof.edu). I can't wait to meet you!**

Here are two affordable options for getting books:

1. Get an ebook from the library by applying for a card here: <https://www.nypl.org/library-card>
2. You can order inexpensive books at this website: <https://www.thriftbooks.com/>. Most are \$4.00, including shipping.

**Once you complete the summer assignments, you can turn them in on google classroom. The code is [rwd5gwn](#)**

***Ms. Candlin***

## **SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

### **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 11th grade, 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 or memoirs 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

*Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

If you have another Young Adult or Adult novel/memoir you would rather read, you are welcome to do so, and feel free to contact me for short story recommendations [jcandlin@sof.edu](mailto:jcandlin@sof.edu).

3. **Think/Write:** Write a 3 page paper, make a short video, write a poem/song/ 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.

## Part II. What is the danger of a single story?

**Introduction:** One thing you'll be thinking about in 11th Grade English is 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

*Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

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.