Incoming Sophomore Summer Reading 2019

Welcome Class of 2022! Betty Fairfax High School requires all students to complete a summer reading assignment each school year. Your summer assignment has two parts. You will need to submit your summer reading assignment via email to humphreys@phoenixunion.org before Sunday, August 4th @ 11:59pm.

Part One (Reading): Choose one of the following books to read that is new to you. It is required that you keep a reading journal that reflects your thoughts on the novel. You can do a multitude of things in your reading journal. Create entries that reflect you as a reader and student. Be creative with your entries (use color, draw, design the page). You can include quotes you found meaningful. Reference passages that are important to theme, character development or plot. Or write down your personal thoughts, reflections or connections that you make throughout the reading. The goal is to engage and reflect on the text you selected.

Waiting by Ha Jin

Waiting, which won the 1999 National Book Award, is based on a true story that Jin had heard when visiting an army hospital in China. The novel depicts the restriction of individual freedoms under communism. Against the backdrop of an evolving Communist China from the 1960s through 1980s, the story revolves around an army doctor, Lin Kong, who is unhappily in an arranged marriage and longs to be with his love, a nurse named Manna Wu. But with his suppressed emotions, the question of whether Kong can truly love becomes the story's ultimate focus.

The Hundred Secret Senses: A Novel by Amy Tan

Set in San Francisco and in a remote village of Southwestern China, Amy Tan's The Hundred Secret Senses is a tale of American assumptions shaken by Chinese ghosts and broadened with hope. In 1962, five-year-old Olivia meets the half-sister she never knew existed, eighteen-year-old Kwan from China, who sees ghosts with her "yin eyes." Decades later, Olivia describes her complicated relationship with her sister and her failing marriage, as Kwan reveals her story, sweeping the reader into the splendor and violence of mid-nineteenth century China.

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

The Woman Warrior, a collection of creative non-fiction memoir pieces, has been taught in universities and high school classrooms since its publication in 1975, and should be considered a canon mainstay. The autobiographical stories often blend with Chinese folktales, such as the story of Fa Mu Lan. They focus on immigrant mother and daughter relationships in the U.S., the tension between different cultures and generations, and, ultimately, finding one's own voice.
**America is the Heart** by Carlos Bulosan

Bulosan's semi-autobiographical novel, published in 1946, is one of the earliest books published from an Asian-American perspective. Bulosan recounts his life starting from a farm in the Philippines, to pawning land in order to finish school, to his journey to the U.S in 1930 and the subsequent prejudices and abuses he endured as a migrant worker.

**Part Two (Essay):**

**Directions:** Select one of the analytical topics below and complete a 2-3 page essay based on one of the prompts below. Be sure to include plenty of evidence to support your claims throughout your essay. Your final essay should be typed, MLA format, submitted via email by Sunday, August 4th @11:59pm. Please submit to humphreys@phoenixunion.org.

1. Occasionally, students in elementary school are allowed to advance to the next grade even though they have not successfully completed the lower grade. Advocates of “social promotion” think that keeping a child in a grade for longer than a year hurts his or her development and self-esteem. Write an essay stating your opinion on this issue, making sure to support your opinion with convincing reasons.

2. Your city council is considering a curfew that would make it illegal for teenagers to be out on the streets after 10 p.m. on weekdays or after midnight on weekends. What is your position on this issue? Write an essay that would convince the city council to agree with you. Be sure to support your position with detailed reasons.

3. In an effort to save money, your local school board is considering eliminating elective subjects such as art, band, and auto mechanics. What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to the school board stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons. Be sure to explain your reasons in detail.

4. Analyze the literary devices used by the writer to present setting in the novel. What literary elements does the writer use to help the reader understand the views of the character? What techniques did the author use to get his/her point across?

5. Think about an event in your life that taught you an important lesson. Write a narrative in which you tell what happened and how you learned a lesson. Be sure to include specific details so that a reader can follow your story.

6. Literature provides readers with narratives that are related to them personally, other texts, and the world at large. In essay structure, please craft a reflection that discusses the chosen piece as it relates to you personally, other texts or society. Be sure to be analytical discussing your thinking (be metacognitive) and thoroughly showcasing the relationship.