In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre-AP or AP English course are required to engage in summer reading and writing, as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

En Conroe ISD, animamos a todos los estudiantes a leer durante el verano para enriquecer el aprendizaje y provocar el pensamiento. La lectura de verano fortalece las habilidades de lectura, aumenta el rendimiento académico, fomenta el amor por la lectura y permite a los estudiantes convertirse en aprendices de por vida. Además, se espera que los estudiantes que se matriculen en un curso de Pre AP o AP de Inglés se involucren en la lectura de verano, ya que prepara a los estudiantes para el próximo año escolar y crea un marco inicial común para la discusión en el aula y la instrucción.

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**AP Language and Composition (11th Grade) Summer 2019 Assignment**

“Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs.” —Pearl Strachan Hurd

“Your words become your world.” —Nadeem Kazi

“Rhetoric is the art or the discipline that deals with the use of discourse, either spoken or written, to inform or persuade or motivate an audience, whether that audience is made up of one person or a group of persons.” —Edward P.J. Corbett

In AP Language & Composition, we will study texts to find meaning and to analyze how the writer uses language to make meaning. We will also look at texts as models for improving our own writing, and as instruments to provoke thought about the world in which we live. The pace will be rigorous, but the rewards will be great (including possible college credit).

In order to prepare for AP Language and Composition, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and writing skills over the summer. Your summer reading assignment is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. You will need to purchase the book on your own; you can get it used for less than $7 on Amazon.com or AbeBooks.com. This short but powerful book won the 2015 National Book Award for Nonfiction and was also a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist. It is written as a letter to the author’s teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States (we will explore and learn from many diverse American voices throughout the course).

While you should be entertained, emotionally moved and intellectually stimulated by the book, your academic focus will be to identify the author’s purpose for writing and how he achieves this purpose. In other words, what message is Coates trying to convey to his audience (his teenage son and anyone reading the book) and what specific language does he use to make the message effective? As you read, I encourage you to annotate the text for powerful language that stands out to you; this will help you with the following writing assignment.

The book is divided into three sections: 1 (pgs. 3-71), 2 (pgs. 73-132) and 3 (pgs. 133-152). For each section, fill out the corresponding worksheet attached to this packet as pre-writing. You will then compose an essay based on this prompt: *What is the author’s purpose in this book, and how does he achieve this purpose?* The essay should be at minimum two double-spaced pages (size 12 font; Times New Roman or Arial). It must include six direct quotes from the novel as evidence (two from each of the three sections). You get to decide how to structure your essay, but try to include the author’s purpose in your thesis statement in the introduction paragraph, and arrange your body paragraphs using logical organization with transitions so the essay flows properly.

This work (essay and attached worksheets) will be submitted for a major grade on Wednesday, August 21st (one week into school). I take this summer assignment seriously, and expect you to complete it. If this intimidates you, AP English is not for you.

I greatly look forward to meeting you in August as we begin our exploration of the power of language. Should you have any questions or concerns about this summer reading and writing assignment, **please feel free to contact me** (seriously!) via the email address below. Have a fun and safe summer!

Jeff Matthews

jrmatthews@conroeisd.net
In your own words, summarize this section of the book (3-4 sentences):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

What is the author’s main purpose in this section of the book? What does he want the audience to think/feel/do after reading this section? (2-3 sentences)

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Write four quotes from this section that help achieve the author’s purpose, and explain how each does so.

Quote 1 (page #___):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Quote 2 (page #___):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
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Quote 3 (page #___):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Quote 4 (page #___):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
In your own words, summarize this section of the book (3-4 sentences):
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What is the author’s main purpose in this section of the book? What does he want the audience to think/feel/do after reading this section? (2-3 sentences)
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Write four quotes from this section that help achieve the author’s purpose, and explain how each does so.
Quote 1 (page #___): ________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
Quote 2 (page #___): ________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
Quote 3 (page #___): ________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
Quote 4 (page #___): ________________________________________________________________________________
Explanation: ______________________________________________________________________________________
In your own words, summarize this section of the book (3-4 sentences):

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What is the author’s main purpose in this section of the book? What does he want the audience to think/feel/do after reading this section? (2-3 sentences)

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Write four quotes from this section that help achieve the author’s purpose, and explain how each does so.

Quote 1 (page #___): _____________________________________________________________________________

Explanation: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Quote 2 (page #___): _____________________________________________________________________________

Explanation: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Quote 3 (page #___): _____________________________________________________________________________

Explanation: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Quote 4 (page #___): _____________________________________________________________________________

Explanation: ___________________________________________________________________________________