

To: All Rising English 11 Students
From: Ms. Brown, Ms. Douglass, and Mr. Eckman
Date: June 11, 2009
Re: Summer Reading for English 11

Dear Students,

As is the policy of Fairfax County Public Schools, all students are to read one book over the summer. As you will be taking English 11 during the 2009-2010 school year, there are specific books we have chosen for your summer reading. Please read one of the books entirely, and complete the given assignment *before* you return to Edison in September.

Summer Reading Book for Rising English 11 Students

Black and White by Paul Volponi

The Dream of Water by Kyoko Mori

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Seventh Son by Orson Scott Card

¡Yo! by Julia Alvarez

Assignment

Choose and respond to any three statements/questions from the following list of twelve. Use specific details from your book when formulating your response. Write 300 words for each of the three chosen. When finished, you will be turning in an assignment consisting of 900 words total. Remember to type your responses using 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

1. The book helps readers to lead better lives and improve their understanding of the world.
2. The book contains a lesson or message.
3. When was the book written, and what was going on in the world at the time.
4. What was going on in the author's life when this book was written and published? Can anyone in the author's life be associated with the author's work?
5. Was the author's life happy? Miserable? Upsetting? Solitary? Social?
6. Comment on tone, point of view, plot, character and structure.
7. Consider the structure of the novel. How is the story presented and in what order?
8. Regarding the female characters, their individuality and their importance to the book. Are they ignored? Pedestalized? How are they treated?
9. What is the economic status (class) of the characters? Comment on the characters' economic, social, or political standing.
10. Are there obvious and hidden motives of the characters?
11. Consider any analysis to increase our understanding of the character.
12. Do you know any well-known people who remind you of one or more of the characters?