

Summer Reading

*Booker T. Washington High School
2017/2018 Rising Juniors (Grade 11)*

**Junior Eng III –
Caucasia by Danzy Senna**

AP Lang & Comp

Read the above story AND ***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Caucasia: Birdie and Cole are the daughters of a black father and a white mother, intellectuals and activists in the Civil Rights Movement in 1970s Boston. The sisters are so close that they speak their own language, yet Birdie, with her light skin and straight hair, is often mistaken for white, while Cole is dark enough to fit in with the other kids at school. Despite their differences, Cole is Birdie’s confidant, her protector, the mirror by which she understands herself. Then their parents’ marriage collapses. Soon Birdie and her mother are on the road, drifting across the country in search of a new home. But for Birdie, home will always be Cole. Haunted by the loss of her sister, she sets out a desperate search for the family that left her behind.

Between the World and Me: In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? This is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son.

We recommend that you:

- **PURCHASE THE BOOK(S) NOW!** Books can be in short supply and libraries will have long “hold” lists, especially by the end of summer.
- Go in together with a friend and share the expense and the book.
- See if the title is available for purchase in used book stores or even in local libraries.

***Take notes!** You need to use a Dialectical Journal for your notes. A model will be posted on the school website under the “Students” section –btw.tulaschools.org.

Expectations for the beginning of the school year – *As you read and take notes, look for evidence that will help you answer the question, **How does one’s family direct one’s concept of success and self-worth?** *Focusing on this question will help you prepare for class discussions and writing assignments. *Your notes will help you prepare for the exam over the book. *Your teacher will tell you when to turn in your notes.