*Booker T. Washington High School*

*2020-2021 Rising Seniors (Grade 12)*

**English IBHL II –**

***The Meursault Investigation***

 **--Kamel Daoud**

**He was the brother of “the Arab” killed by the infamous Meursault, the antihero of Camus’s classic novel. Seventy years after that event, Harun, who has lived since childhood in the shadow of his sibling’s memory, refuses to let him remain anonymous: he gives his brother a story and a name—Musa—and describes the events that led to Musa’s casual murder on a dazzlingly sunny beach. In a bar in Oran, night after night, he ruminates on his solitude, on his broken heart, on his anger with men desperate for a god, and on his disarray when faced with a country that has so disappointed him. A stranger among his own people, he wants to be granted, finally, the right to die.**

***The Stranger* is of course central to Daoud’s story, in which he both endorses and criticizes one of the most famous novels in the world. A worthy complement to its great predecessor, The Meursault Investigation is not only a profound meditation on Arab identity and the disastrous effects of colonialism in Algeria, but also a stunning work of literature in its own right, told in a unique and affecting voice.**

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**We recommend that you:**

* **PURCHASE THE BOOK 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!** Keep a dialectical journal as you read.

**Expectations for the beginning of the school year** – **\***As you read and take notes, look for evidence that will help you answer the question, **To what extent does the *The Meursault Investigation* change your understanding of *The Stranger*? \***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.