

Summer Reading

*Booker T. Washington High School
2021-2022 Rising Juniors (Grade 11)*

Junior Eng III – *A Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds

An ode to Put the D*mn Guns Down, this is *New York Times* bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds--the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *A Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

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!**

1. Title, Author, & Genre
2. Brief summary of the plot of the book.

Include:

- What is the setting of the story?
- Who is/are the main character(s)?
- Explain the types of conflict the characters are facing. What's the problem?
- Was the story believable? Why or why not? Explain.
- What was the most interesting or surprising event in the story? Why? Explain.
- How does the author characterize the main character, the protagonist? The antagonist?
- What themes are included in the story?
- Was there anything in the story that you needed to look up or some aspect that was part of a culture, occupation, activity, etc. you are unfamiliar with? What? Explain.

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- Was there anything in the story that you could relate to and that you were familiar with? What? Explain.

- What stylistic choice did the author make that you might consider incorporating into creative writing of your own? Why would you use it?

- Think about:

- Story format (how is the actual writing set up?)

- Point of view

- Use of figurative language like imagery

- Flashback, flash forward, or foreshadowing

(Example response: For each chapter, the author switches point of view to another character. This allows the reader to see what each person feels or thinks about the same events taking place).

Expectations for the beginning of the school year—

*Your notes will help you prepare for the exam over the book.

*Your teacher will tell you when to turn in your notes.