

Summer Reading

*Booker T. Washington High School
2021/2022 Incoming Freshmen (Grade 9)*

**All in-coming freshmen will read –
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

“Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life” (Goodreads).

Or*

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

“Well, no, actually, a lady tripping over Rashad at the store, making him drop a bag of chips, was what started it all. Because it didn’t matter what Rashad said next—that it was an accident, that he wasn’t stealing—the cop just kept pounding him. Over and over, pummeling him into the pavement. So then Rashad, an ROTC kid with mad art skills, was absent again...and again...stuck in a hospital room. Why? Because it *looked* like he was stealing. And he was a black kid in baggy clothes. So he must have been stealing.

And that’s how it started.

And that’s what Quinn, a white kid, saw. He saw his best friend’s older brother beating the daylights out of a classmate. At first Quinn doesn’t tell a soul...He’s not even sure he understands it. And does it matter? The whole thing was caught on camera, anyway. But when the school—and nation—start to divide on what happens, blame spreads like wildfire fed by ugly words like “racism” and “police brutality.” Quinn realizes he’s *got* to understand it, because, bystander or not, he’s a part of history. He just has to figure out what side of history that will be.

Rashad and Quinn—one black, one white, both American—face the unspeakable truth that racism and prejudice didn’t die after the civil rights movement. There’s a future at stake, a future where no one else will have to be absent because of police brutality. They just have to risk everything to change the world.

Cuz that’s how it can end” (Goodreads).

***We are giving two options because while both books deal with similar issues, *The Hate U Give* contains more mature language than *All American Boys*.**

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.

As you read, you will complete a dialectical journal over the powerful topics portrayed in the book.

The beginning of the school year – there will be assignments and exams over the book during the first week of school. On the first day of class, your English teacher will tell you when to turn in your dialectical journal.

Freshmen Summer Reading Dialectical Journal

While you are reading, keep a dialectical journal. The “dialectic” was the method Socrates used to teach his students how to be actively engaged in the struggle to derive meaning from an unfamiliar and challenging work.

In a dialectical journal, you will divide your paper into two columns. One column is labeled TEXT; the other RESPONSE. As you read, identify certain passages that illustrate one of the following topics:

- Finding Your Voice
- Privilege
- Community
- Racism
- Activism
- Violence and/or Police Brutality
- Role of the Media
- Family
- Identity
- The Power of Language

Requirements:

- For the TEXT column, quote the passage and include a page number for reference.
- For the RESPONSE column, discuss how the passage connects to or illustrates one of the topics.
- You are required to have at least ONE passage with a corresponding response for each chapter for *The Hate U Give* and TWO for each chapter for *All American Boys*.
 - You **MUST** have at least one passage/response for **each of the listed topics above**.
- Each text and response combination will be worth 2 points for a total of roughly 54 points for this assignment.
 - Points will be deducted on the TEXT side for failure to document accurately and completely.
 - Points will be deducted on the RESPONSE side for superficiality and incompleteness.
 - Each response must be 40-50 words in length. We are looking for quality, not quantity.