

# Summer Reading

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*Booker T. Washington High School  
2021-2022 Rising Seniors (Grade 12)*

**English IBHL II –  
*Parable of the Talents*  
--Octavia Butler**

Originally published in 1998, this shockingly prescient novel's timely message of hope and resistance in the face of fanaticism is more relevant than ever.

In 2032, Lauren Olamina has survived the destruction of her home and family, and realized her vision of a peaceful community in northern California based on her newly founded faith, Earthseed, which teaches "God Is Change". The fledgling community provides refuge for outcasts facing persecution after the election of an ultra-conservative president who vows to "make America great again." In an increasingly divided and dangerous nation, Lauren's subversive colony—a minority religious faction led by a young black woman—becomes a target for President Jarret's reign of terror and oppression.

Years later, Asha Vere reads the journals of a mother she never knew, Lauren Olamina. As she searches for answers about her own past, she also struggles to reconcile with the legacy of a mother caught between her duty to her chosen family and her calling to lead humankind into a better future.

Expectations for the beginning of the school year:

As you read **write down quotations and your reflections in your Learner Portfolio** about **any connections** you find in *Parable of the Talents* to one of the following **fields of inquiry**:

1. Culture, Identity and Community
2. Beliefs, Values and Education
3. Politics, Power and Justice
4. Art, Creativity and the Imagination
5. Science, Technology and the Environment

\*Your notes will help you prepare for **a project over the novel** which will be due the second week of the semester.