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Dear CCSC Family,

We are Akweley “Q” Okine, 9th and 11th grade English teacher, and Heidi Thayer, 10th grade English teacher and High School Humanities Department Chair, and we are writing to provide more information on the summer reading books for 2023.

- **Rising 9s:** Students will be reading [*Cemetery Boys*](#) by Aiden Thomas. The text will be available through our Humanities online library on [our website](#). You are also welcome to take them out of your local library or purchase your own copies.

This novel was published in 2020 and is a young adult contemporary fantasy novel that honors the Latinx culture. The book has recently appeared on banned book lists because of its “murder mystery plot, as well as depictions of poverty, youth homelessness, assault (off-page) mis-gendering and dead naming of trans characters.” (You can learn more [here](#)).

- **Rising 10s:** Students have the choice to read [*The Hate U Give*](#) and/or [*On the Come Up*](#), both by Angie Thomas. These texts will be available through our Humanities online library on [our website](#). You are also welcome to take them out of your local library or purchase your own copies.

Both novels are realistic fiction and focus on intelligent and motivated young adults navigating their home lives, school, and society at large, and both have won countless awards. *The Hate U Give* has appeared on banned book lists because of its use of profanity, reference to violence, and messages around the Black Lives Matter Movement ([Banned Books Week](#)).



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We believe all of the assigned texts have immense value, both literary and in terms of their relevance and messages. However, if you and/or your student are not comfortable with reading either the 9th or 10th grade texts, please ask your student to choose their own summer reading text and complete the assignment (on [our website](#) and on respective Google Classrooms) for their chosen book.

Please reach out with questions and/or concerns.

Best,

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