

## College Prep English III Summer Reading Assignment

Research done at Harvard University by James Kim, Professor of Education, shows that even only reading four or five books over the summer helps to prevent the summer slump. Students who don't read much over the summer show a decline in reading performance from the end of one year to the start of the next (TextProject Topics: summer reading). As you know, college admissions factors in standardized tests and the SAT and ACT assess reading comprehension skills. In addition, our graduates tell us that most of their homework in college consists of reading! We want our students to be good readers, detailed writers, and critical thinkers. That is why the CCHS summer reading and writing program is in place. If you would like to read some of the studies done on the summer slump, please go to the English Department web page to access some articles and links.

Please feel free to join my Summer Reading 2024 Google Classroom (add code: zsiadif) so you will be aware of anything I may post to support your summer assignment and so you may have a forum to ask questions of or bounce ideas off of one another (or me). If you have any questions between now and the start of school, you may email me at [guina@cchscsca.org](mailto:guina@cchscsca.org) or post on Google Classroom. I am unlikely to post much in the first month of summer or to check my email or Google Classroom often. Feel free to post anyway.

**Read and annotate** *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell and *Dry* by Neal Shusterman this summer. I recommend reading *Outliers* first, as you will need more recent knowledge of *Dry* for use in class discussions and assignments (our first unit this year will revolve around *Dry*, paired with another book that you will read when school starts). Your annotations will be helpful to you in the writing assignments you will have in the first couple of weeks of class. Annotations should be more than simply highlighting or underlining but should be a conversation with the text. Ask questions. Draw conclusions. Make comparisons. This will lead to a richer reading experience and to much, much better writing.

**While** you are reading *Outliers*, you should answer the following questions. Number each question and divide your complete thoughts into paragraphs, but leave a space in between each question. Your answers should be long enough to completely address the questions (meaning at least three or four good sentences EACH). I recommend answering the questions as you read the pertinent sections of the book, as your impressions will be fresher sooner rather than later.

### ***Outliers*** Summer Reading – English III

Essential Questions: **Answer the following three bullet-pointed questions before you begin reading.** These will be the first three answers to what you end up turning in to me in August. Keep these three things firmly in mind as you read through the text.

- What is success?
- What are the factors both in and beyond our control that may impact our ability to be successful?
- What are the links between hard work and success? Between luck and success?

Please read *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell and complete the following questions. The answers should be typed in full sentences/paragraphs. They are due on the first day of classes in August.

1. What idea or ideas is Gladwell setting up through talking about the Rosetans in the introduction and the Canadian youth hockey players in the first chapter?
2. Explain the significance of the 10,000-hour rule and how Gladwell uses Bill Joy, Bill Gates, and the Beatles as proof of his 10,000-hour theory.
3. Describe Annette Lareau's study and discuss with some examples whether the environment you grow up in is more like "concerted cultivation" or "accomplishment of natural growth."
4. What conclusion can one draw from the life story of Chris Langan, as related in the chapter "The Trouble with Geniuses Part 2" and what is the significance of discussing different types of IQs when discussing Langan?
5. Put in your own words the "three lessons of Joe Flom" which Gladwell identifies as "the importance of being Jewish," "demographic luck," and "meaningful work."
6. From chapter 8, what language-related theory does Gladwell offer to explain the proclivity of Asians for math?
7. In what way does his discussion of rice farming relate back to the 10,000-hour rule?
8. Review the proof Gladwell uses to support it and then discuss the statement "Virtually all of the advantage wealthy students have over poor students is the result of differences in the way privileged kids learn when they are *not* in school."
9. Explain Gladwell's ultimate conclusion that "The outlier, in the end, is not an outlier at all."
10. This book is filled with people's stories illustrating the various points Gladwell is trying to make throughout. Write a paragraph about whose story you found most interesting, whose story really caught your attention, and explain why

Enjoy your summer vacation. Please feel free to email me at [guina@cchsca.org](mailto:guina@cchsca.org) with any questions or concerns. I will check my email periodically in the latter half of the summer.