

Happy almost summer!

The first few weeks of freedom will be restful and lovely, and then we know you'll start to get bored and need some reading to keep your minds occupied. While we highly recommend reading some fun beach books, we're also (even more highly) recommending getting a jump on the reading with which we start the 11 Honors American Lit course.

When you return to school, we will immediately begin composing your first essay on Colson Whitehead's [The Nickel Boys](#). Published in 2019, it is a compelling read based on the real-life Florida school named the Dozier School for Boys. You can learn more about the school [here](#) and the book [here](#) or [here](#). You can buy copies (recommended) or borrow from the WPS or WHS Media Center. The ebook and audiobook are available in [Sora](#). We have a few copies you may borrow, please stop by Room 318 or Room 302 to grab an extra copy. You are responsible for the care and return of any WHS-owned copy of the text. The expectation is for you to READ THIS OVER THE SUMMER.

As supplemental readings, and to get some more potential context, we also read Te-Nihisi Coates' [Between the World and Me](#) (we have some copies we can loan you - see Mr. Martin or Mr. Roets, and there is an HBO film version [here](#)) and James Baldwin's [The Fire Next Time](#), also available as a [pdf](#) (focus on the first essay - ["My Dungeon Shook- Letter to My Nephew on the 100th Anniversary of the Emancipation"](#)). We will be using these books right away - right after the Labor Day weekend. You will be writing about them within those first two weeks of school, engaging with [this assignment](#). Do yourself a huge favor and read these works BEFORE school starts. Don't do the assignment yet, but be aware of what it is asking you to do with these texts while you read them.

It is going to be a busy year; you will read seventeen complete works by American authors (fiction, memoir, drama - here's [the list from last year](#)), along with some supplemental reading, AND you will write 9-10 compositions, along with some shorter reflection pieces. Don't let your mind go soft over the summer - prepare it!

Enjoy your summer - Mr. Martin and Mr. Roets