



**Be prepared to turn in your project on your book the day you return to school. You may share the project with your teacher in the form of a Google Doc on the first day of school.**

**\*Failure to do the summer assignment will result in a failing grade in the first marking period.\***

**Directions:** Choose **one** of the following novels to read over the summer and complete one of the projects listed below:

- 1. Journal** - Complete a minimum of six typed journal entries in the voice of one of the book characters. **Journal entries should be a total of at least three complete pages typed and double spaced.**
- 2. Letters** - Complete at least four (you may do more) letters between two of the characters in the book. The letters may have characters focus on some of the internal conflicts the characters face. **Letters should be a total of at least three complete pages typed and double-spaced.**
- 3. Essay** - Write an essay analyzing three of the central conflicts of the book. Be sure to use quotes from the text in your analysis. **The**



**essay must be at least two typed pages double-spaced.**

- 4. Essay** - Write an essay describing the books relevance to your own life. Be sure to use quotes from the text. **The essay must be at least two typed pages double-spaced.**
  
- 5. Resume** - Create a resume for the main character of the novel. In a separate description at least one page typed, double-spaced describe the type of job you believe your character would be suited for and why. The resume should be one page long and the description should be at least one additional page typed and double-spaced.

### **Book options:**

1. *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
2. *Sold* by Patricia McCormick
3. *The Rock and the River* by Kekla Magoon
4. *Front Desk* by Kelly Yan
5. *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
6. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan



## **Summary of books:**

### **Speak**

"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication.

In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself

### **Sold**

For thirteen-year-old Sam it's not easy being the son of known civil rights



activist Roland Childs. Especially when his older (and best friend), Stick, begins to drift away from him for no apparent reason. And then it happens: Sam finds something that changes everything forever. Sam has always had faith in his father, but when he finds literature about the Black Panthers under Stick's bed, he's not sure who to believe: his father or his best friend. Suddenly, nothing feels certain anymore.

Sam wants to believe that his father is right: You can effect change without using violence. But as time goes on, Sam grows weary of standing by and watching as his friends and family suffer at the hands of racism in their own community. Sam begins to explore the Panthers with Stick, but soon he's involved in something far more serious -- and more dangerous -- than he could have ever predicted. Sam is faced with a difficult decision. Will he follow his father or his brother? His mind or his heart? The rock or the river?

## **The Rock and the River**

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## **Front Desk**

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets.

Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests.

Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.

Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language?

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?



## **New Kid**

A graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

## **Esperanza Rising**

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--



Mama's life, and her own, depend on it