2019 SUMMER READING PORTFOLIO
ENGLISH 4 (12th Grade)

Rising seniors in English 4 will be required to write a first draft of two college essays. All students are also required to read two books and complete the corresponding assignments. This year, *The Namesake* is our grade-level selection. Before, during and after reading *The Namesake*, students will complete activities that will enable them to think critically about the novel and prepare for the class discussions and analysis of the text that will be conducted during the first few weeks of school. This book is available to borrow from Bodine, please see Ms. Reber in Room 208 for a copy.

Students will also select one nonfiction title from the list provided on Google Classroom and in this packet. For the nonfiction title, students must submit a Vocabulary Journal and a Nonfiction Text Analysis. Knowledge of both titles will be necessary for lessons during the opening weeks of school.

Your Summer Reading Portfolio is due on the first day of school and will count as part of your first marking period grade.

Some parts of your Summer Project must be submitted online at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and Google Classroom. Please add both courses:

[www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com) | Class ID: **20933438** Enrollment Key: **bodine**

Google Classroom | Class code: **ed853s**

Your summer work will count for a substantial portion of your 1st report grade. All of your work must be typed, *single-spaced*, Times font, 12 point.

Your assignments are **by the first day of school, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**. Work submitted after the due date will also be graded on a pass/fail basis. Absolutely no summer work will be accepted after September 30th. You can submit this assignment at any point over the summer; you don’t have to wait until September! Remember that your local branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia has internet and computer access, if you do not have these at home. If you need ANY clarification, you can email kireber@philasd.org.

**ASSIGNMENT 1 – COLLEGE ESSAY**

This summer, all seniors in English 4 will be required to write a first draft of TWO college essays based on the Common Application Prompts and submit each essay (separate files!) on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). You may find another scholarship or admissions essay prompt online, but it is strongly suggested that you respond to two of the Common App prompts, as well, so you have an essay of this kind available when you apply to colleges and scholarships. Your complete drafts should each be between 300-650 words in length. Your essays should be creative (show don’t tell!) and demonstrate self-awareness by giving insight into who you are as a person and applicant.
Common App Prompts (CHOOSE TWO):

#1 Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

#2 The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

#3 Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

#4 Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

#5 Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

#6 Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

ASSIGNMENT 2 – 12TH GRADE REQUIRED READING SELECTION
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

BEFORE: To preview the themes of this reading you are asked to write a brief (1 page/300 words minimum) reflective journal entry about your family, cultural heritage, and personal identity. This journal entry must be submitted on www.turnitin.com. Please consider any of the following questions as prompts. Choose the prompts are relevant to you/your family’s experience. You do not need to (and may not be able to) address all of the prompts in your reflective journal entry. Where does your name come from? Why is it your name? Do you have a nickname? Who gave it to you? What does it mean to you? What makes you American? What is your homeland? How/why did your family come to America?

DURING: As you read The Namesake, you will be asked to keep a Vocabulary Journal on a separate piece of paper to be turned in on the first day of school. This is an activity designed to help you prepare for the SAT or ACT tests you may still be taking – every opportunity to expand your vocabulary is important!

Be sure to look up and record the part of speech and definitions for these words. Indicate the page numbers for these words as well so that you can keep track of them. They are listed in the order in which they appear in the book. The first one has already been done for you:
1. **fastidious** (p.10) = (adj.) very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail
2. acute
3. nomenclature
4. inviolable
5. morose
6. despondent
7. precarious
8. diminutive
9. benign
10. surreptitious
11. empathy
12. goad
13. emblematic
14. vociferous
15. affluent
16. anomaly
17. stringency
18. sate
19. abhor
20. abate
21. innate
22. tranquil
23. disparage
24. subsist
25. infuse
26. quotidian
27. discreet
28. premonition
29. aloof
30. pliable
31. pedagogue
32. envious
33. malaise
34. uniform
35. renovate
36. retract
37. ruse
38. colossus
39. diminish
40. forsake

**AFTER:** Once you have finished reading *The Namesake* you will demonstrate your understanding of the work’s main ideas and argument by responding to one of the following essay prompts in a short essay (1 page/300 words minimum). This essay must be submitted on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Your essay must have a thesis statement and should include at least 3 quotes from the text. Be sure to refer to page numbers ( ) when you use quotes in your essay. The rubric for this essay will be available on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for you to consult as you work.

**PROMPT #1:** Lahiri writes, "The question of identity is always a difficult one, but especially for those who are culturally displaced, as immigrants are . . . who grow up in two worlds simultaneously." What does Gogol want most from his life? How is it different from what his family wants for him, and what they wanted when they first came to America to start a family? Compare and contrast the expectations of Gogol’s parents with his own expectations.

**PROMPT #2:** The marriage of Ashima and Ashoke is arranged by their families. The closest intimacy they share before their wedding is when Ashima steps briefly, secretly, into Ashoke’s shoes. Gogol’s romantic encounters are very different from what his parents experienced or expected for their son. Analyze Gogol’s relationships with American women.

**PROMPT #3:** The title *The Namesake* reflects the struggles Gogol Ganguli goes through to identify with his unusual name. Consider: the circumstances under which he was named, his rejection of his name, and his decision to rename himself. Does Gogol Ganguli find his identity by the end of the novel?
ASSIGNMENT 3 - INDEPENDENT READING SELECTION - NONFICTION

Read a nonfiction text of your choosing, you may consult the list of titles below, or choose a book on a topic of interest to you. While you read, prepare a vocabulary journal of 25 vocabulary words (or key terms) from the text. After you read, prepare a nonfiction text analysis, this could be in a document file or a slideshow. Both of these assignments will be submitted on Google Classroom.

#1 Your Vocabulary Journal must include the words, page numbers, and definitions.

#2 Your Nonfiction Text Analysis (this could be in a Document file or prepared as a PowerPoint or Google Slides Presentation) must include:

1. A short synopsis or summary of the text you chose. (150 words minimum)
2. A discussion of the reason(s) why you chose this text. (100 words minimum)
3. A presentation of the author’s main argument with well-selected quotes to illustrate/explain the author’s key points. (100 words minimum)
4. A list of recommended texts (other books or articles) related to the topic of your nonfiction selection.

Suggested Nonfiction Titles for 12th Grade Summer Reading:

- Eyes and Spies: How You’re Tracked and Why You Should Know by Tanya Lloyd Kyi
- Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time by Tanya Lee Stone
- Plastic by Susan Freinkel
- A Year Without Mom by Dasha Tolstikova
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
- I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai
- Laughing at My Nightmare by Shane Burcaw
- No Summit out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits by Jordan Romero
- The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens by Brooke Hauser
- Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen by Christopher McDougall
- Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging by Sebastian Junger
- Maphead by Ken Jennings
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
- Play: How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul by Stuart M. Brown Jr. and Christopher Vaughan
- Do Good Design: How Designers Can Change the World by David B. Berman
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates