

**Attention: Parents and Students!**

**WHO:** ALL James S. Rickards High School Students entering English I, English I Honors, English I Pre IB, English II, English II Honors, English III, English III Honors, English IV and English IV Honors, AP Literature, or English IV IB (but NOT in SL/HL History).

**WHAT:** The information attached outlines the choices and assignments we have given to our students for the 2017 James S. Rickards School-Wide Summer Reading Program. While specific courses such as Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) may have alternate or additional summer assignments that will need to be completed before the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, we want to develop a program that encourages a culture of reading and an expectation of academic dedication for all of our students. Therefore, we are asking you to read the attached information and participate in our summer reading activity. The assignment composed for this year focuses on having students answer reflective questions about their chosen text and provide evidence for the inferences they make in their reflection.

**WHEN:** While the expectation is that students will write original answers to these questions and submit them as a course requirement by the end of the first week of school following our return, we also want to encourage parents and groups of students to use them to discuss their readings with each other so that we can all share in the experience of these texts. Activities centered upon these questions will take place within the first few weeks of Language Arts instruction in the fall as well.

**CONTACT INFO:** If you have any questions regarding our JSRHS Summer Reading Program, please feel free to email Ms. Walden, JSRHS Reading Coach ([waldens@leonschools.net](mailto:waldens@leonschools.net)) or Mr. Fiallos, JSRHS ELA Department Chair ([fiallosj@leonschools.net](mailto:fiallosj@leonschools.net)).

## **Rickards High School Summer Reading Choices 2017**

**Students will choose ONE of the titles below to read independently during the summer of 2017. After reading, they will complete the assignment found at the end of this document.**

### ***All American Boys (Fiction)* By Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

Quinn saw it all. He saw his best friend's older brother beating a classmate. The classmate happened to be Rashad, a black ROTC student who was wearing baggy clothes. The older brother happened to be a cop who was white. Now Quinn must make the right choice...loyalty or honesty? (Source: Florida Teen Reads/FAME)

### ***Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune (Nonfiction)* By Pamela S. Turner**

Bushido, or samurai culture, has been widely explored in film and literature; here, its origins are presented for a teen audience with the tale of the "ultimate samurai," Minamoto Yoshitsune. A fast-paced and unexpectedly funny tale filled with family feuds, bloody battles, and sweeping romance, *Samurai Rising* combines thorough historical research with contemporary observations to make a compelling chronicle of Yoshitsune's journey from child exile to immortal hero of legend. (Source: Young Adult Library Services Association/ YALSA)

### ***Mycroft Holmes (Fiction)* By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse**

Mycroft Holmes' best friend, a West Indian tobacconist named Cyrus Douglas, and Georgiana (Mycroft's fiancée) learn of a series of child killings on Trinidad, which is home to both of them. The victims were found on the beach with their blood drained. The only clue: backward-facing footprints in the sand — supposedly the work of the douen, spirits of unbaptized children who deliver their prey to a giant mosquito called the loutgarou. Join Mycroft in solving this mystery in the classic style of Sherlock Holmes, co-authored by basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. (Source: L. A. Times)

### ***Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina (Nonfiction)* By Michaela and Elain DePrince**

The extraordinary memoir of an orphan who danced her way from war-torn Sierra Leone to ballet stardom, most recently appearing in Beyoncé's *Lemonade* and as a principal in a major American dance company. Michaela shares her dramatic journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars. (Source: [readbrightly.com/Penguin](http://readbrightly.com/Penguin) Random House Publishers)

### ***March (Book One, Two, or Three) (Nonfiction)* By John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell**

Powerful and captivating, these graphic novels depict key moments throughout the Civil Rights movement. Following John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and fellow activists, the artwork brings to life the brutality, loss, and successes members experienced while carrying out a series of nonviolent protests to overcome local barriers and exercise their right to vote. Equally moving as stand-alone titles, these books will hook readers from the opening scene and leave them questioning how they themselves might answer the call of injustice long after the last page is turned. (Source: Young Adult Library Services Association/ YALSA)

***All the Light We Cannot See (Fiction)*** By Anthony Doerr

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. (Source: Simon and Schuster)

***The Boy in the Black Suit (Fiction)*** By Jason Reynolds

Matt wears a black suit every day. No, not because his mom died—although she did, and it sucks. But he wears the suit for his gig at the local funeral home, which pays way better than the Cluck Bucket, and he needs the income since his dad can't handle the bills (or anything, really) on his own. So while Dad's snagging bottles of whiskey, Matt's snagging fifteen bucks an hour. Not bad. But everything else? Not good. Then Matt meets Lovey. Crazy name, and she's been through more crazy stuff than he can imagine. Yet Lovey never cries. She's tough. Really tough. Tough in the way Matt wishes he could be. Which is maybe why he's drawn to her, and definitely why he can't seem to shake her. Because there's nothing more hopeful than finding a person who understands your loneliness—and who can maybe even help take it away. (Source: Simon and Schuster)

***I Am Princess X (Fiction)*** By Cherie Priest and Kali Ciesemier

Suddenly May begins seeing I Am Princess X stickers all over Seattle, and even discovers a whole I Am Princess X webcomic online. This can only mean one thing: her best friend, Libby, from fifth grade is alive and didn't drown in a car crash. Where has she been hiding all these years and why? I Am Princess X is part mystery, part graphic novel, and all cyber thriller. (Source: Florida Teen Reads/FAME)

**Part I Written Response and Directions:** After reading the summer reading novel you chose from the school list, complete the following questions. Your responses may be typed or neatly hand-written on a separate sheet of paper.

1. List the title and author of your book.
2. Write a concise, objective summary of your book. This should be no longer than 3-5 sentences.
3. What is the central conflict or societal issue presented in this book? How does it change or develop over the course of the novel?
4. Part A: What is a statement about life or the world with which the author of this book would agree? Your answer should be one complete sentence.
5. Part B: Consider the statement you constructed in part A (question #4). Cite 4-5 quotations from the book that provide textual evidence of the accuracy of the statement you constructed. Be sure to cite your quotations using the following example: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view..." (pg. 83)
6. Explain an event or idea from your own life or current events that relates to a theme or idea that is prominent in this book.

#### **General Reminders and Expectations for Writing Short Responses**

- The response should answer ALL portions of the question.
- The response should be accurate in its answer to all portions of the question.
- The response should be written with the appropriate level of thought and depth demanded by the task.
- When required, the response provides text evidence for support.
- The response is free from errors in grammar, mechanics, and usage.
- The response is written in complete sentences.

**Part II Creative Response and Directions:** Using your responses to several of the questions above, construct either a brochure or poster to promote your book. Your promotional poster or brochure should be neat, colorful, and contain a version of your book summary (question #2), 2-3 quotations from the book (question 5), a brief quote or statement from you, the reader, giving your opinion of the book (2-3 sentences maximum), and artwork that is relevant to the major themes or ideas of the text.

#### **General Reminders and Expectations for Crafting Creative Responses**

- The creative response should address all components required by the task directions.
- The creative response should accurately reflect the required information.
- The creative response should be neat and attractive.
- The creative response is free from errors in grammar, mechanics, and usage.