

## Jump Start into the Semester

Hello Seniors!

I hope you have all found ways to have a fun and meaningful summer! The good news is that you still have a few weeks left. I wanted to go ahead and provide a few of our semester's first assignments so that you may choose to get a jump start on course work. While this is not required work, it will help you ease into the start of the school year as opposed to drinking from a fire hose in the first few weeks. The first major text that we will read is Octavia Butler's *Kindred*. Please go ahead and order a copy. It may be a used copy. If your family can not do this for financial reasons, please email me immediately at: [dianelong27@gmail.com](mailto:dianelong27@gmail.com), and I will secure a copy for you.

### **Assignments:**

Consider the following quotations about reading for inspiration:

“My education was the liberty I had to read indiscriminately and all the time, with my eyes hanging out.”  
-Dylan Thomas

“There's nothing more exciting to me than to read books.” – Toni Morrison

“Read like a wolf eats.” – Gary Paulsen

“Read. Read. Read. Read everything- trash, classics, good and bad...Read! You'll absorb it.” – William Faulkner

1) Describe your reading life. What do you read? When do you read? How do you feel about reading? Do you have any reading goals? If so, how/why did you set them? If not, why not? We will start our reading journey together by remembering positive reading experiences you have had over the years. What was your first positive reading experience? When was it? What did you enjoy about the book? What was your most recent positive reading experience? What did you enjoy about the book? Did you select it? If you do not read novels, what do you tend to read? Discuss all types of reading. Please be as thoughtful and as honest as you can with this writing. **Type a 2 page double spaced essay in 12 pt Times New Roman font in which you respond to the aforementioned questions making specific and direct references to texts that have been meaningful to you.** You must include the title, author's name, protagonist, antagonist, and a description of the central conflict. (Even Dr. Seuss books have central conflicts!)

2) In *Kindred*, a late 20<sup>th</sup> century California girl falls back in time to pre-Civil War Maryland where she must stay alive and keep her ancestors alive in order to maintain her timeline.

Purchase and read Octavia Butler's *Kindred*. Since this will be your copy, you should feel free to annotate it in the margins! As you read, be sure to annotate in the margins or use sticky notes. You need to track:

A. Character development

- B. Setting
- C. Key topics (which will turn into themes)- relationships, time, violence, stereotypes, etc...
- D. Style and Structure
- E. Quotes that stand out to you- connect to themes, character development or setting

Note: You do not need to read the entire text by August 17th. It is most important to have the text by that date. Please do not hesitate to email with any questions. [Dianelong27@gmail.com](mailto:Dianelong27@gmail.com)

Thank you,

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