

Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering

8th Grade ELA Honors Summer Reading
2022-2023

English Department Summer Reading Policy Statement:

Summer reading serves a number of purposes. First, summer reading is diagnostic. It provides teachers a means of assessing students' critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Next, summer reading is academic. It keeps students academically engaged over the summer, and it sets a tone for the level of rigor students should expect in any English class in the coming year. Last, and perhaps most important, summer reading is communal. It provides students a vehicle for cultural literacy, choice, and personal growth and independence of thought.

Generally speaking, students enrolled in each English course will read a book-length text, a novel or a play. Students will also read two shorter texts, usually poems, essays, or short stories, that pair with the lengthier text thematically. Together, the three texts will be used to guide English instruction within the first several weeks of class as both students and teachers work to answer the first unit's essential question. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses may be asked to read additional works or lengthier works.

Essential question: What are some milestones on the path to growing up? Novel or play: *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros Accompanying texts:

- "The Setting Sun and the Rolling World" by Charles Mungoshi
- "The Medicine Bag" by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

Students are expected to obtain their own copy of the lengthier text and to bring it to school when classes resume in August. An electronic version of the lengthier text is also available here:

[HouseOnMango.pdf \(nlcphs.net\)](#). Copies of the shorter texts are attached to these guidelines.

Students are expected to be active and engaged readers of the summer reading texts. To that end, teachers may issue additional instructions at a later date to guide student reading and responses, so please check Schoology regularly or be looking for a communication from your English teacher this summer.

English Department Alternate Selection Policy:

Should a parent wish for his or her child not to read a chosen literary selection, he or she should contact the child's English teacher prior to the beginning of the unit of study for an appropriate alternative text designated by the English department.