

## ***SUMMER READING 2018***

Students will complete summer reading for ENGLISH LITERATURE and CATHOLIC THEOLOGY. Please pay attention to the directions and feel free to contact the school office over the summer with any questions.

### **CATHOLIC THEOLOGY READING**

ALL STUDENTS (regardless of CP, Honors, or AP status) are expected to complete the following assignment. All students will read:

#### ***Mercy in the City:***

***How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job,***

By Kerry Weber

#### **Before you begin reading the book**

*The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs." (uscbb.org)*

Have you heard of the corporal works of mercy? Look them up before you begin at usccb.org:

(<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy.cfm>)

And as Jesus teaches them in Matthew's Gospel Matt 25:31-46.

#### **As you read the book**

Think about Kerry Weber's attempts to live the Corporal Works of Mercy. Consider these questions as you read.

What are some of the challenges she encounters?

As you read of her efforts, can you think of places where you might make similar efforts?

Where are there people in need in your area?

How could you respond to that need?

#### **When you finish the book**

Answer the following questions in writing. Give complete and thoughtful answers. Your reflections should be handed in on the first day of classes to your Theology teacher. This assignment will be graded. Two pages, typed, double-spaced, please.

1. On page 12, mercy is defined as: "the willingness to enter into the chaos of another." What strikes you about that definition? Find three other definitions of mercy from well known people. Which one rings most true to you?

2. At one point (p. 30) Kerry finds herself annoyed and wonders if the Work of Mercy still counts if you're crabby about it. What do you think?
3. React to the Dorothy Day quote (from page 64): "I really only love God as much as the person I love the least." What do you think she means?
4. What do you think of when you imagine a prisoner? What does he or she look like? What stereotypes of prisoners do you have? Have you ever visited a prison? Why is important to remember that countless saints like St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Dismas, St. Thomas More, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Jesus himself, were considered criminals and thrown in jail?
5. In the final chapter Kerry writes two beautiful and short insights (p. 138): "Mercy is a choice" and "to have mercy is to give mercy." Which of those two sticks out most to you and why?
6. How are you personally or we as a community called to the Corporal Works of Mercy? What challenges do we face in living the works of mercy?

**Long term challenge**

Choose one of the Corporal Works of Mercy to work on during the first semester. You might choose the one that seems most challenging to you. Try to make this work of mercy a part of your daily life. From time to time during the first semester your Theology teacher will ask you to discuss in class or in writing how you are doing with living your work of mercy.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE READING**

Students in Honors and CP classes will complete the following work over the summer (AP students will receive separate assignments). Each grade level has been assigned a book relevant to the themes and goals of the upcoming year's literature course.

- On the first day of classes, students will submit hard copy responses to a series of short answer questions about the book. Questions may be found in the Google Classrooms listed below.
- On the second day of classes, students will be tested on the book. This test will include questions about plot, characters, and/or themes. No time in class will be used to review for this assessment. Students are expected to prepare on their own.
- Following the test, class time will be spent on studying the book that was assigned. Students will be expected to have a **physical copy** of the book (paperback or hardcover) and participate in class discussions and activities. Following the unit of study, an additional assessment will be given.
- Rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors can access a Google Classroom dedicated to Summer Reading 2018 resources for their grade.

### **FRESHMEN**

**Book: *The Other Wes Moore*** by Wes Moore

*All freshmen are encouraged to attend a **Summer Reading Review Session**. These sessions (approximately one hour long) are designed to help students review the book and article and understand the expectations for our Day Two Assessment. Registration is not required. This year's sessions will be held at 1:00 on Tuesday, August 14th, and Thursday, August 16st.*

### **SOPHOMORES**

(Google Classroom Code: 6z2pzk)

**Book: *Beatrice & Virgil*** by Yann Martel

### **JUNIORS**

(Google Classroom Code: ncz441)

**Book: *The Color of Water*** by James McBride

### **SENIORS**

(Google Classroom Code: 2ieqdcj)

**Book: *Expecting Adam*** by Martha Beck