



# RHS English

## Summer Assignment

### REQUIRED:

Your summer assignment is to compose a commencement speech to your graduating class.

While you may not have many typical high school experiences yet, imagine hanging out at your locker, passing class with friends, spirit days, going to the prom, senior week, or celebrating with your team after a win.

This writing assignment will be used in a variety of ways over the course of the year, including writing techniques, speaking and listening activities, and inclusion in your writing portfolio.

Please bring 2 **hard** copies with you on the first day of class.

# RHS Summer Reading Suggestions

**\*\*It is recommended that all Renaissance students read at least 2 books each summer.\*\***

The ELA department at Renaissance High School is engaged in implementing district curriculum including additional rigor and supports to ensure a college prep high school experience. To that end, some texts may include mature topics which will be used to explore thematic ideas, identify literary techniques and strengthen critical thinking skills.

[1984](#) George Orwell

[A Lesson Before Dying](#) by Ernest J. Gaines ([PDF](#))

[Ace of Spades](#) Faridah Abike-Iyimide

[Animal Farm](#) George Orwell

[Anthem](#) Aryn Rand

[Before the Mayflower](#) Lerone Bennett

[Between the World and Me](#) Richard Wright (poem)

[Between the World and Me](#) Ta-Nehisi Coates [Between the World and Me The Beautiful Struggle](#) (pdf)

[Born a Crime](#) Trevor Noah

[Boy 21](#) Matthew Quick

[Brave New World](#) Aldous Huxley

[Children of Blood and Bone](#) Tomi Adeyemi

[Children of Virtue and Vengeance](#) Tomi Adeyemi

[Concrete Rose](#) Angie Stone

[Copper Sun](#) Sharon Draper [Copper Sun](#) (pdf)

[Crossover](#) Kwame Alexander

[Dear Justyce](#) Nic Stone

[Dear Martin](#) Nic Stone [Dear Martin](#) (pdf)

[Dear White People](#) Justin Simien

[Educated](#) Tara Westwood

[Ella Minnow Pea](#) Mark Dunn

[Firekeeper's Daughter](#) Angeline Boulley

[Ghost Boys](#) Jewel Parker Rhodes

[Lean In For Graduates](#) Sheryl Sandberg

[Native Son](#) Richard Wright

[One Hundred Years of Solitude](#) Gabriel García Márquez [One Hundred Years of Solitude](#) (pdf)

[Purple Hibiscus](#) Ngozi Adichie

[Sold](#) Patricia McCormick

[Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi

[The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian](#) Sherman Alexie

[The Alchemist](#) Paulo Coelho

[The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man](#) James Weldon Johnson

[The Awakening of Malcolm X](#) Ilyasha Shabazz

[The Boy in the Black Suit](#) Jason Reynolds

[The Catcher in the Rye](#) J.D. Salinger

[The Great Gatsby](#) F. Scott Fitzgerald [The Great Gatsby](#) (pdf)

[The Hate U Give](#) Angie Thomas [The Hate U Give](#) (pdf)

[Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) Zora Neale Hurston

[The Joy Luck Club](#) Amy Tan [The Joy Luck Club](#) (pdf)

[The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl](#) Issa Rae

[The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) Michelle Alexander

[The Other Wes Moore](#) Wes Moore

[The Spook Who Sat by the Door](#) Sam Greenlee

[Transcendent Kingdom](#) Yaa Gyasi

[Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?](#) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

[Where the Crawdads Sing](#) Delia Owens

[18 Meaningful Books](#)

[20 Indispensable High School Reads](#)

[115 Best Young Adult Books of All Time](#)

**Want to know what your teachers are reading this summer?  
Check out their lists!**

**Ms. Bell-Bowers:**

[Conspirators' Hierarchy: The Story of the Committee of 300](#) Dr. John Coleman

**Ms. Carone:**

[The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother](#) James McBride

[From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](#) E.L. Konigsburg

[The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue](#) V.E. Schwab

[The Lost Apothecary](#) Sarah Penner

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**Ms. Carter:**

**[Why are all the black kids sitting together in the cafeteria and other conversations about race?](#)  
Beverly Daniel Tatum**

**[The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley](#)**

**[As a Man Thinketh](#) James Allen**

**Ms. Hoyle-Speed:**

**[American Spy](#) Laura Wilkinson**

**[All About Love: New Visions](#) bell hooks**

**[The Crunk Feminist Collection](#) Britney Cooper et al.**

**[Handbook of Yoruba Religious Concepts](#) Baba Ifa Karade**

**Ms. Jones-Clay:**

**[A Promised Land](#) Barack Obama**

**[Becoming](#) Michelle Obama**

**[The Testaments](#) Margaret Atwood**

**[Deadly Cross](#) James Patterson**

**[21st Birthday](#) James Patterson**

**[Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda](#) Jesse J. Holland**

**[Just As I Am](#) Cicely Tyson**

**[The Man Who Lived Underground](#) Richard Wright**

**[Concrete Rose](#) Angie Thomas**

**[Dear Justyce](#) Nic Stone**

**[Mornings in Jenin](#) Susan Abulhawa**



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**Ms. Rowley:**

**[Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty](#) Patrick Radden Keefe**

**[The Source of Self-Regard](#) Toni Morrison**

**[The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#)  
Richard Rothstein**

**Mr. Towns:**

**[A Promised Land](#) Barack Obama**

**[Forty Million Dollar Slaves: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Black Athlete](#)  
William C. Rhoden**

**[Late Bloomers: The Power of Patience in a World Obsessed with Early Achievement](#)  
Rich Karlgaard**

**Ms. Washington:**

**[Such a Fun Age](#) Kiley Reid**

**[Think Like a Monk: How to Train Your Mind for Peace and Purpose Everyday](#) Jay Shetty**

**[Mornings in Jenin](#) Susan Abulhawa**

**Ms. Wilson:**

**[A Promised Land](#) Barack Obama**

**[The Vanishing Half](#) Brit Bennett**

**[Finna](#) Nate Marshall**