

May 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Albuquerque Academy's English department encourages lifelong and yearlong reading. All rising sophomore students are required to read selections from *Heads of the Colored People*, a collection of stories by Nafissa Thompson-Spires. This book is readily available in bookstores, and from online retailers. Before the first week of class, students should read and prepare to discuss or write about the first six stories: "Heads of the Colored People," "The Necessary Changes Have Been Made," "Belles Lettres," "The Body's Defenses Against Itself," "Fatima, The Biloquist," and "The Subject of Consumption." Teachers will include other stories from the collection in the first quarter curriculum, but students do not have to read them over the break.

The second task for rising sophomores is to choose a nonfiction book and read it over the summer. Students and faculty in the 10–12 Division have compiled an extensive list of recommended nonfiction summer-reading books for rising sophomores that is available online as a LibGuide, complete with descriptions and images. We think students will find a tremendous diversity of nonfiction picks here; titles range from classic to contemporary, humorous to hair-raising, and everything in between. We have a simple rule about choosing books: You must love the book. Arrive in the fall with the phrase, "You gotta read this!" on your lips. If you don't love the book you have chosen, find another.

Here is the link to the site: [http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summer\\_reading10-12](http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summer_reading10-12)

Students should be prepared to discuss both of their texts during the first week of school. Be sure to read carefully, mark up the pages, and come in with questions and comments. Be assured that if you fail to complete the assignment, it will negatively affect your first-quarter grade. We encourage you to begin your reading early in the summer in order to be prepared, but plan a little time to look back through the books in order to refresh your memory before the start of school. As you read, take some notes and consider the following questions: What will you remember about this book? What, if anything, confused you? Did this book change the way you think? Why should others read it?

Sincerely,

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