

May 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

In an effort to encourage yearlong reading and keep young minds sharp, the English department at Albuquerque Academy requires students to complete a summer assignment. Next year's juniors will read two books over the break: one common text, and one work they select from a list we have compiled. In the first few days of the new school year, juniors will discuss and write on these books in English class. They should be sure to have both books with them on their return.

Common Text. Our aim with the common text is to have students engage a topical issue and interrogate their own opinions about it. This year's common text is Valeria Luiselli's *Tell Me How It Ends* (2017), a fairly brief nonfiction essay that explores the plight of migrant children seeking asylum in the United States. Students can look at the online summer-reading LibGuide for some material that will help focus their reading. (See the link below.)

Self-selected work. Students, faculty, and librarians in the 10–12 Division have compiled an extensive list of recommended summer-reading books for rising juniors. The list, which can be accessed through the LibGuide, includes a great diversity of novels and nonfiction works spanning periods, cultures, genres, and subjects. Students should choose a challenging and sophisticated book on a topic that truly interests them. *Students are not permitted to choose a book they have already read.*

Summer-reading books are available at local bookstores, online retailers, and local libraries. Because students must have their books with them at the start of school, and because annotating is a fundamental and crucial academic practice, we ask that students purchase their copies.

The summer-reading LibGuide can be accessed through this link:
http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summer_reading10-12.

We encourage students to begin reading early in the summer and to set aside some time to review the books before school starts.

Happy Reading,

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