

Please select **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

| Book Title and Author                                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>When the Emperor Was Divine</i><br>by Julie Otsuka | This historical novel follows a Japanese American family forcibly removed from their home and sent to an incarceration camp during World War II. Told through multiple perspectives, the story explores identity, silence, loss, and the lasting impact of injustice on both individuals and families.                                                     |
| <i>A Separate Peace</i><br>by John Knowles            | Set at a boys' boarding school during World War II, this novel explores the complex friendship between Gene and his charismatic best friend, Finny. As the pressures of adolescence and war build, jealousy and insecurity lead to a tragic betrayal. The book examines themes of identity, rivalry, loss of innocence, and the internal battles we fight. |

**Important Note for Parents/Guardians:** Please research accordingly before your student selects their book. You may wish to use resources such as Good Reads Reviews and Common Sense Media to ensure that you and your student are comfortable with the material in this book.

**What Do I Do?** Read attentively and enjoy your book! Annotating is **recommended** but will **not** be required as a grade. However, after the second week of the semester, you will have an assessment requiring your knowledge of this book, and you can use your annotations to help you.

**Tips for Annotation:** If you own the book, write in it. If you borrow the book, use sticky notes (make sure you keep track of page numbers). As you read, use annotations to identify and label examples of the following:

- **Connections:** How do the events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of?
- **Questions:** Ask specific questions about the story or about the author's writing choices.
- **Emotion:** How do the events in the story make you feel? The characters' decisions? The resolution?
- **Analysis:** Identify and discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or any other literary elements or literary devices.