

Incoming 10th Grade Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

The incoming 10th-grade summer readings for English and History, respectively, are *Signs Preceding the End of the World*, by Yuri Herrera, and *Warriors Don't Cry*, by Melba Patillo Beals. As you read these books, you will be expected to annotate the text. Since we won't all be reading at the same time, it will be beneficial for you to highlight, underline, and record your thoughts *within* the pages of your physical book; this will serve to further thoughtful and efficient class discussion when we convene in September. **You must bring your annotated book to the first day of class.**

For English, *Signs Preceding the End of the World* is the story of a young protagonist crossing an international border in search of her brother. This short novella is also a symbolic journey of the individual from one life to another; it is a tale that mirrors the progression of a soul through the Aztec underworld, Mictlán, but uses contemporary settings in order to investigate the experience of migration, borders, and the collision of cultures. It is an interesting, short, and challenging book!

As you read, be sure to annotate (underline, highlight, take notes in the margins, etc.). You'll also be required to complete the following for **each chapter (9 total) of the novella**:

- 1) In 3-4 sentences, summarize the chapter's main events.
- 2) Copy 1 quotation in the chapter that you feel is important and, in 2-3 sentences, analyze its significance to the story or explain why it's interesting to you.

These responses should be written on a Google doc and shared with Matt Norrdin (mnorrdin@crms.org)

For History, *Warriors Don't Cry* is the memoir of a 10th grade girl helping to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in the 1950's. In History next year, the essential question is "How do we solve the current crises as positively as possible based on historical examples?" This breaks down into 3 smaller questions for the first semester. These questions are:

- How do humans react to crises as individuals and in societies?
- How do those reactions lead to positive and negative outcomes?
- What lessons can we learn about crisis reactions from historical examples?

We read the book to examine crisis situations and how the climbers react to those situations. Crisis is defined as a crucial decision making point. As you read the book, look for and annotate examples of the following:

- Crisis situations for the students integrating Central High School.
- How they react to those situations.
- How those reactions lead to positive and negative outcomes.
- The lessons we can learn from those reactions.
- The values that underlie the actions of the various people in this story

Bring the annotated book with you on the first day of class and be prepared to discuss.