



Dear Rising Infinity 10<sup>th</sup> Graders,

Summer is finally here! As we head into a time of well-deserved relaxation and rest, we want to be mindful not to lose the reading skills you have built up throughout the school year. Reading is an invaluable tool that promotes comprehension and critical thinking, as well as life-long learning. The required high school summer assignment is designed to build these skills, support the course curriculum, and prepare you for the upcoming year.

### **Assignment**

Select ONE book from EACH of the lists provided on the back of this letter – ONE for English II and ONE for World History. Choose books that are both of interest and a challenge to you.

As you read, analyze each text using a **dialectical journal**. On each page of a composition book or spiral notebook, create a double column. On the left side, write down the page # and the text you are analyzing. On the right side, write down your thought, comment, observation, and/or question – what is it that made you stop and think for a moment? Please be mindful that your responses should demonstrate critical thinking and high school level reflection. You must have a minimum of **30 journal entries** for each book – please number your responses in the margin. Two exemplar responses have been included below.

Entry	Text	Response
22	P. 335-336 – “As Mutushiro fled, the hunt for him began. Though they were not operating under the orders of their former enemies, the Japanese worked swiftly and energetically to round up war-crimes suspects.”	<i>It seems odd that the Japanese are only just now deciding to hold Mutushiro responsible for his actions against the POWs. Why did they not believe the Americans before? And how did the Americans build trust with the Japanese to make them believe them?</i>
23	P. 352 – “Louie had no idea what had become of the Bird, but he felt sure that if he could get back to Japan, he could hunt him down...He was going to kill the Bird.”	<i>All of Louie's pent up rage against the bird has finally come to the surface. I think he would kill him if he could find him, but that doesn't seem likely. I'm curious how he will take out his anger given that killing the Bird is most likely not in his future.</i>

### **Accountability**

**Summer reading is a requirement for all English II and World History scholars at Uplift Infinity High School.** Scholars must read their selected texts and complete the dialectical journal prior to the second day of classes on August 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>. This will serve as the first major grade of the school year; failure to complete the summer reading assignment will jeopardize your course grade. Additionally, we hold all high school scholars accountable for their work; you will be required to complete the assignment for a reduced-grade.



### **Access**

This letter will be available online on the school's website and Facebook page, as well as in the front office. All book titles are chosen considering accessibility, grade-level academic goals, and critical reading and thinking skills. Each selection can be found at your local library, Barnes and Noble, or Half-Price Books, or online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Irving Public Library – South	Schulze Dr. Irving, TX 75060	972-721-2606
Irving Public Library - West	4444 W. Rochelle Rd. Irving, TX 75062	972-721-2691
Barnes and Noble	7700 W. Northwest Hwy. #300 Dallas, TX 75225	214-739-1124
Half-Price Books	5803 E. Northwest Hwy. Dallas, TX 75231	214-379-8000

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Hannah Parker, HS Dean of Instruction ([cparker@uplifteducation.org](mailto:cparker@uplifteducation.org)). We hope you have a fantastic summer – we'll see you in August!

Sincerely,

Hannah Parker

*HS Dean of Instruction*

[cparker@uplifteducation.org](mailto:cparker@uplifteducation.org)



## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: World History

Select ONE of the books from the list below for your required **World History** reading. Then complete the dialectical journal described on the front page of this packet. \*\*NOTE: Some novels may contain mature content and/or adult language. Please select a novel you are comfortable reading.\*\*

<b>Title and Author</b>	<b>Description from Goodreads</b>
<u>News of a Kidnapping</u> Gabriel Garcia Marquez	In 1990, fearing extradition to the United States, Pablo Escobar – head of the Medellín drug cartel – kidnapped ten notable Colombians to use as bargaining chips. With the eye of a poet, García Márquez describes the survivors' perilous ordeal and the bizarre drama of the negotiations for their release.
<u>Chinese Cinderella</u> Yen Mah	A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair.
<u>In the Time of Butterflies</u> Julia Alvarez	Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this extraordinary novel tells the story the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands.
<u>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</u> Ishmael Beah	What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.
<u>Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae</u> Steven Pressfield	In 480 B.C., two million Persian invaders come to the mountain pass of Thermopylae in eastern Greece, where they are met by 300 of Sparta's finest warriors. The Greek loyalists battle for six days in a prelude to their ultimate victory.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: English II

Select ONE of the books from the list below for your required **English II** reading. Then complete the dialectical journal described on the front page of this packet. \*\*NOTE: Some novels may contain mature content and/or adult language. Please select a novel you are comfortable reading.\*\*

Title and Author	Description from Goodreads
<u>Eleanor and Park</u> Rainbow Rowell	Eleanor... Red hair, wrong clothes. Standing behind him until he turns his head. Lying beside him until he wakes up. Making everyone else seem drabber and flatter and never good enough...Eleanor. Park... He knows she'll love a song before he plays it for her. He laughs at her jokes before she ever gets to the punch line. There's a place on his chest, just below his throat, that makes her want to keep promises...Park. Set over the course of one school year, this is the story of two star-crossed sixteen-year-olds—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.
<u>The Help</u> Kathryn Stockett	Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk.
<u>Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close</u> Jonathan Safran Foer	Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is an inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, letter writer, pacifist, natural historian, percussionist, romantic, Great Explorer, jeweller, detective, vegan, and collector of butterflies. When his father is killed in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centre, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet. It is a search which leads him into the lives of strangers...
<u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</u> Mark Haddon	Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes.