



Dear Rising Infinity 11th 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 attached to this letter – ONE for English III and ONE for U.S. History. Choose books that are both of interest and a challenge to you.

As you read, analyze the 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 the 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 III and U.S. History scholars at Uplift Infinity High School. Scholars must read their selected texts and complete the dialectical journals prior to the second day of classes on August 11th/12th. 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.

Location	Address	Phone Number
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). We hope you have a fantastic summer – we'll see you in August!

Sincerely,

Hannah Parker

HS Dean of Instruction

cparker@uplifteducation.org



11th Grade: U.S. History

Select ONE of the books from the list below for your required **U.S. 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.**

Title and Author	Description from Goodreads
<i>Red Badge of Courage</i> by Stephen Crane	During an unnamed battle, 18-year-old private Henry Fleming survives what he considers to be a lost cause by escaping into a nearby wood, deserting his battalion. When he returns to camp, the other soldiers believe he was harmed by a bullet grazing him in battle. In the final battle, Henry becomes one of the best fighters in his battalion as well as the flag bearer, finally proving his courage as a man.
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe	The narrative drive of Stowe's classic novel is often overlooked in the heat of the controversies surrounding its anti-slavery sentiments. In fact, it is a compelling adventure story with richly drawn characters and has earned a place in both literary and American history. Stowe's puritanical religious beliefs show up in the novel's final, overarching theme—the exploration of the nature of Christianity and how Christian theology is fundamentally incompatible with slavery.
<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> by James Fenimore Cooper	Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The abduction of the beautiful Munro sisters by hostile savages, the treachery of the renegade brave Magua, the ambush of innocent settlers, and the thrilling events that lead to the final tragic confrontation between rival war parties create an unforgettable, spine-tingling picture of life on the frontier. And as the idyllic wilderness gives way to the forces of civilization, the novel presents a moving portrayal of a vanishing race and the end of its way of life in the great American forests.
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> is the first of Mark Twain's novels to feature one of the best-loved characters in American fiction. From the famous episodes of the whitewashed fence and the ordeal in the cave to the trial of Injun Joe, <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> is redolent of life in the Mississippi River towns in which Twain spent his own youth.



11th Grade: English III

Select ONE of the books from the list below for your required **English III** 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
<i>Freakonomics</i> by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do drug dealers still live with their moms? How much do parents really matter? How did the legalization of abortion affect the rate of violent crime? <i>Freakonomics</i> is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They usually begin with a mountain of data and a simple question. Some of these questions concern life-and-death issues; others have an admittedly freakish quality. Thus the new field of study contained in this book: <i>freakonomics</i> .
<i>Fast Food Nation</i> by Eric Schlosser	Fast food has hastened the malling of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning. Schlosser unearths a trove of fascinating, unsettling truths -- from the unholy alliance between fast food and Hollywood to the seismic changes the industry has wrought in food production, popular culture, and even real estate.
<i>Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids</i> by Alexandra Robbins	A groundbreaking look at the pressure to achieve faced by America's teens In <i>The Overachievers</i> , Robbins uses the a captivating style to explore how our high-stakes educational culture has spiraled out of control. During the year of her ten-year reunion, Robbins goes back to her high school, where she follows heart-tuggingly likeable students. With a compelling mix of fast-paced narrative and fascinating investigative journalism, <i>The Overachievers</i> aims both to calm the admissions frenzy and to expose its escalating dangers.
<i>Nickel and Dimed: On (NOT) Getting By in America</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity -- a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate strategies for survival. Instantly acclaimed for its insight, humor, and passion, this book is changing the way America perceives its working poor.