



Dear Class of 2018:

I am pleased to welcome you to Senior English. It is a course designed to solidify the skills you have gained in reading works of fiction and non-fiction. The goal is to foster independence and critical thinking when you read—whatever you read. The printed word is powerful. All too often, people believe what they read simply because it appeared in print in the newspaper or online. This course is meant to teach you to be thoughtful, weigh the evidence, analyze, and then come to your own conclusion. Throughout the year, your teachers will be encouraging you to read frequently and widely and reflect upon your reading.

We know summer is a time for you to relax, recharge and enjoy your hard-earned vacation, but we also want you to use your time productively. Therefore, we are **requiring** students to read the first four chapters of the *New York Times* best selling memoir ***The Glass Castle*** by Jeanette Walls. (You will need your copy of **The Glass Castle** for the first few weeks of school). You are also required to read **ONE** book of your choice from the list of contemporary books on the following page. During your first week back at school ,your English teacher will be assigning an in-class writing assignment on your book of choice -so be prepared!

Students need not like or agree with everything they read. Some times a book that provokes dissent is as stimulating as a book that echoes our own thoughts. Our hope is that your summer reading will engage your minds, stimulate thought, and help you to clarify and become more comfortable with your individual and unique perspectives on life. Best wishes for a healthy and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Mica Bloom

English Department Chair



con·tem·po·rar·y

adjective

adjective: **contemporary**

1.

belonging to or occurring in the present."the tension and complexities of our contemporary society"

CHOOSE ONE:

Remember: During your first week at school your teacher will be giving you an in-class writing assignment on ONE of the books below!

