

Dear Incoming Sophomores,

In ninth grade English, we explored the notion of “identity”. As we read and analyzed different works of literature, we asked: What is identity? How do we form our identities? What internal and external factors contribute to this process of forming an identity?

In tenth grade English, we will take the concept of identity further while exploring the ways in which literature examines the self versus society. The summer reading work begins this exploration. Please read the novel *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka during the summer. The novel is set during World War II and explores the impact of Japanese internment camps. In order to understand this important part of the setting, please take some time to research this aspect of American history online. Additionally, feel free to annotate your copy with your insights and analyses so that you will be prepared to discuss it in class and write about it in September.

In addition to *When the Emperor was Divine* , please read one novel from the list of choices sent to you via email and be prepared to discuss this novel in class and write about it in September.

You can obtain these novels from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other places where fine works of literature are sold. You may also find them on iBooks or your Nook.

Have a wonderful summer!