

Dear Incoming Freshmen,

As unbelievable as it may seem, your first year of high school is fast approaching. We are so excited to be learning with you in September. In ninth grade English, we will be exploring the theme of "identity". As we read and analyze different works of literature, we will be asking the following questions as part of the broader theme:

What is identity?

How do we form our identities?

What internal and external factors contribute to this process of forming an identity?

How do gender roles affect identity and society's expectations of people?

In order to be ready in September to talk about these questions, please read *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. It will be the first work of literature you will explore at the beginning of the school year. In addition to *Secret Life of Bees*, please read one novel from the list of choices sent to you via email and be prepared to discuss them in class and write about them in September.

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

While reading your selected novel, please keep in mind the following two questions that are relevant to the theme:

Is experience attained at the expense of innocence?

What effect does regret have on growing up?

Feel free to highlight and annotate (make notes in the margins) your book or keep a journal of your thoughts about these questions as you read the work.

We are looking forward to meeting you in person and exploring literature together.

Have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Kur

Mrs. Isseroff