

## Norwalk Early College Academy Summer Work for Honors English 1 Students

*To read a writer is for me not merely to get an idea of what he says, but to go off with him and travel in his company.*  
-André Gide

Greetings students, parents, and readers,

Summer is a wonderful time for students to relax, explore, and gain valuable career experiences. The Norwalk Early College Academy (NECA) English department and our the entire NECA family believe firmly in students, teachers, administrators, parents and all community members keeping their minds active and engaged during the summer months through reading. Studies routinely show that the *summer slide*, students regressing from progress made during the year, can be reduced through summer enrichment programs and summer reading.

We also believe that the relaxed atmosphere of summer is a perfect time for students to choose the reading material that they are interested in. Students who are empowered to choose their own books are much more likely to enjoy their reading and to continue the act of reading as a life-long interest. We also believe that life-long readers engage in the habitual sharing of their books with other readers. Most of us come upon many of the books we love through the recommendation of others.

We have made several changes to the NECA summer reading program for the summer of 2016 to reflect these beliefs. Students will be required to choose two (2) books that are grade appropriate, complete notes on their chosen texts, and be prepared to discuss and write about those books in class. The summer reading handout, which can be found attached and on the NECA the website includes note taking sheets and numerous links to websites for lists of acceptable texts.

Thank you and enjoy your summer,  
The NECA English Department