

Students should purchase copies of the works listed on the Freshman Letter and below, read them thoroughly, and complete the written responses required for each title. These responses, which may be hand-written or typed, should be put in a journal for submission to English Instructors **when school begins** in August.

**NOTE:** Students will be required to complete **Character Charts** for the required texts. Models of Character Charts can be found at [www.westernhighschool.org](http://www.westernhighschool.org). Go to the homepage, click “Academics,” then click “English,” and then click “Charts.” Please print out the Character Chart and use it to model your own Character Charts that will be placed in your Summer Reading Journal. If you are unable to download the charts, copies will be available in the main office over the summer.

### **Title 1: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**

1. As you read, think about the characters, particularly George and Lennie. Use two **colored pencils** – one color for George and one for Lennie – and **underline** significant words and/or phrases that would help you understand and remember information about each character: how he acts, what he says, how he looks, what he thinks, what other characters say about him, and what the author may say about him. **DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTERS AS THEY WILL BLEED FROM ONE PAGE TO ANOTHER.**
  2. When you have finished reading, complete **two character charts** (one for George and one for Lennie). If you have marked your book, this will be easy to do. You may hand-write or type each chart. Be sure to draw lines to separate each column and each area neatly. **DO EACH RESPONSE ON A SEPARATE PAGE** in the journal.
  3. Choose one (1) of the following options:
    - a. Create a visual representation of each character discussed. **You should have two pictures total.** You may create a drawing, painting, collage, etc. on 8 \_ by 11 paper. Each character drawing should be placed in your Summer Reading Journal.
- OR**
- b. Choose one of the main characters from *Of Mice and Men*. **Compose a series of five (5) journal entries** about this character based on his experiences at different places in the text. Journal entries should be \_ page to a page handwritten (1/2 page to \_ of a page typed) and placed in your Summer Reading Journal.

### **Title 2: *The Color of Water* by James McBride**

1. As you read, think about the characters, particularly Ruth McBride Jordan. Use one **colored pencil** and **underline** significant words and/or phrases that would help you understand and remember information about the character: how she acts, what she says, how she looks, what she thinks, what other characters say about her, and what the author may say about her. **DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTERS AS THEY WILL BLEED FROM ONE PAGE TO ANOTHER.**
  2. When you have finished reading, complete **one character chart** for Ruth McBride Jordan. If you have marked your book, this will be easy to do. You may hand-write or type each chart. Be sure to draw lines to separate each column and each area neatly.
  3. Choose one (1) of the following options:
    - a. Compose a brief commentary (a three paragraph essay) in which you describe how James McBride uses characterization to illustrate the *theme*, or central idea, of the memoir. (In other words, which point is McBride making throughout the story, and how is the character helping the author make that point?) Use the methods of characterization from the character chart to assist you in discussing the character.
- OR**
- b. Pretend that you are interviewing Ruth McBride Jordan after *The Color of Water* was released. Compose a list of at least ten questions that you would ask her, as well as responses to the questions that you believe she would give. Finally, include a paragraph describing why you chose to ask her the questions that you did. Type or neatly write up the entire interview and place it in your Summer Reading Journal.

**REMEMBER: Put all of your work in a journal and have it and the copies of your books with you when you report to school in August. It is ideal that you have your books before the start of the Summer Bridge Program.**