Congratulations on your acceptance into the 12th grade Honors English program at Liberty High School. During the summer, in preparation for our non-fiction course, I am asking each of you to read two books: *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore, as well as an independent choice from the list included below. To reflect and facilitate your understanding of the *The Other Wes Moore*, you will have a written assignment due (see attached) on the first day of class. For your independent selection, you should keep detailed, chapter-by-chapter notes and reflections. These notes and reflections will be used during the second half of the course for a major research paper.

Your thorough understanding of these two core texts is essential to the course, since they explore topics that will serve as the foundation for your pursuit of college and career readiness. The overall goal of the course is to help you develop the critical reading, thinking, writing, and public speaking skills needed to thrive within your potential field(s) of interest.

I hope you have a safe, fun, productive summer and trust that you will enjoy the readings. I look forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Neiad Ammary
LHS English Department
ASSIGNMENT #1

Text: The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

Synopsis: Two kids named Wes Moore, born blocks and months apart in similar Baltimore neighborhoods, grew up fatherless and troubled. How, then, did one end up a convicted murderer while the other became a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, and leader?

Assignment for The Other Wes Moore

✓ You will identify passages (textual support) that illuminate the following three topics: environment, education, and expectations. Wes Moore the author explores the relationships between these three factors he believes influences a child: an individual’s home and social environment; an individual’s educational system; and the expectations placed on an individual from his family and community. Each of these topics had an impact on the two men named Wes Moore in the book in different ways and at different times.
✓ For each entry, you will identify the passage (column 1), the topic (column 2) and your analysis (column 3).
✓ You are required to have 10 entries that should be spaced throughout the book. (You will lose points if all your entries are from the beginning of the book.)
✓ An assessment of your understanding of the book as well as your analysis of the three topics will be the focus of a timed writing assessment during the first week of school.

General Instructions

• Each entry should be typed in the appropriate format and should be approximately 1/4 -1/2 page in length.
• Make sure to include the page number after the quoted text.
• Include the text passage and your analysis.

Please type the following header (left side) on your assignment:
Your name
Teacher name
Honors English 12 – Nonfiction
Date
The Other Wes Moore Assignment

Sample of Journal Entry Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Passage</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text: “Record the text from the book in this space. Do not use ellipsis before, after or during a quote. If the passage is important enough to comment on, then quote it all. Don’t forget to include the page number after the quote” (41).</td>
<td>Enter one of the three topics: environment, education, or expectations</td>
<td>Analysis: In this space you are to examine how the topic impacts both Wes Moore the author as well as the “other” Wes Moore. Use this space to ask insightful questions, make relevant comments, analyze the author’s use of language, or to make personal comments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSIGNMENT #2
Independent Study

Instructions: After considering your personal, academic, and career interests, select one of the books listed below. As you read, write detailed, chapter-by-chapter notes and reflections. These notes and reflections will be used during the second half of the course for a major research paper on or related to a topic of your choice. Your work should be organized, neat, and thorough.

Recommended Books (Non-fiction books that I have recently enjoyed):

*A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
Synopsis: *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is Bill Bryson’s quest to find out everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization—how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us.

*Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond
Synopsis: *Guns, Germs, and Steel* is Jared Diamond’s Pulitzer Prize winning explanation of the rise and fall of various human societies throughout world history. Diamond explains the dominance of Eurasian cultures and believes this is due to these societies' technologic and immunologic advantages, stemming from the early rise of agriculture after the last Ice Age.

*Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell
Synopsis: *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* is the second book by Malcolm Gladwell. It presents in popular science format research from psychology and behavioral economics on the adaptive unconscious, mental processes that work rapidly and automatically from relatively little information. It considers both the strengths of the adaptive unconscious, for example in expert judgment, and its pitfalls, such as stereotypes.

*Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't* by Jim Collins
Synopsis: *Good to Great* is a business management book that aims to describe how companies transition from being average companies to great companies and how companies can fail to make the transition. Its implications and applications reach far beyond the business world.

*Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv
Synopsis: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* is a 2005 book by author Richard Louv that documents decreased exposure of children to nature in American society and how this "nature-deficit disorder" harms children and society. The book examines research and concludes that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. The author also suggests solutions to the problems he describes.
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain
Synopsis: Cain’s 2012 book argues that modern Western culture misunderstands and undervalues the traits and capabilities of introverted people, to the detriment of individuals, schools, workplaces, and society.

Generation iY: Our Last Chance to Save Their Future by Tim Elmore
Synopsis: This landmark book paints a compelling-and sobering-picture of what could happen to our society if we don't change the way we relate to today's teens and young adults.

The Forever War by Dexter Filkins
Synopsis: The Forever War is a non-fiction book by American journalist Dexter Filkins about his observations on assignment in Afghanistan and Iraq during the 2001 War in Afghanistan and the Iraq War.

Where Men Win Glory by Jon Krakauer
Synopsis: Where Men Win Glory, a 2009 book written by Jon Krakauer, is a biography of Pat Tillman, an American football player who left his professional career in the NFL and enlisted in the United States Army after the 9/11 attacks.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
Synopsis: Into Thin Air is a 1997 bestselling non-fiction book that details the author's presence at Mount Everest during the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, when eight climbers were killed and several others were stranded by a "rogue storm."

The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg
Synopsis: Charles Duhigg takes us to the thrilling edge of scientific discoveries that explain why habits exist and how they can be changed. Distilling vast amounts of information into engrossing narratives that take us from the boardrooms of Procter & Gamble to sidelines of the NFL to the front lines of the civil rights movement, Duhigg presents a whole new understanding of human nature and its potential. At its core, The Power of Habit contains an exhilarating argument: The key to exercising regularly, losing weight, being more productive, and achieving success is understanding how habits work.

*Other Options: If none of the books listed above appeals to your personal interests or scholarly pursuits, you may email me at nammary@basdschools.org by no later than June 30th to propose another book. It must be classic or contemporary non-fiction, at least 200 pages in length, and widely acclaimed by reputable sources.