



SHADY SIDE

ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL
500 Squaw Run Road East
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-968-3100

May 2017

Dear Rising Form II Students:

In Form II English, we center our discussions and writing around the question, *What is Justice?* This question will guide our process, and we will begin our year with a text which addresses how justice relates to freedom of speech, access to education, and the global community. For several years now, Malala Yousafzai has captured the world's attention with her call to equality and freedom. A victim of violence and terrorism, Malala's perseverance and resilience through tragedy only adds to her noble goals of increasing access to education for girls around the world. Malala has, appropriately, received many extraordinary recognitions, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. As our all-form book, we will read *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* (Young Readers' Edition) by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick.

Please annotate your book as you read. You should look for major themes (especially justice, education, and equality), mark any questions you have, and note important moments of Malala's development. When we return to school, we will be discussing the book in Socratic Seminars. We will use the Little, Brown Books for Young Readers edition, (ISBN 978-0-316-32791-6) and we refer to page numbers from this edition during our classwork.

You are also required to read an additional three books from the Form II Summer Reading List. You should select a total of two books from the Fiction and the Non-fiction Lists. This means you could read one fiction book and one non-fiction book, or two fiction books, or two non-fiction books. You will also select one book from either the Summer Reads List or the Hot off the Press List. Ms. Guering and I have carefully selected books which we feel will benefit your personal and academic growth. We hope that you will find enjoyment, engagement, and appropriate challenges in your selections. If you would like to read more than three books, please challenge yourself appropriately!

Using your GoodReads account, you should complete a review for each of the three books which you select from the lists. Each review should include a brief summary of the plot along with a discussion of literary elements (plot, characterization, stylistic choices, symbolism, etc.). This section should be about 3 to 5 sentences. In the second paragraph, you should discuss your reaction to the text and to the author's message. Remember: your commentary must be supported by quoted evidence and concrete reasoning. This section should not exceed 7 sentences. All of the writing which you post to GoodReads, including the book's summary, must be completely original. Please also remember to proofread your work before posting it in a public forum. If you are new to Shady Side Academy, please simply type and print these reviews and bring them to school during the first week. (We will set up a GoodReads account later.) Please note (all students): you do not have to write a review for *I am Malala*. Also, you may find it best to read *I am Malala* last (in August) so that it is fresh in your memory.

To help you summon up all this information, the Form II Summer Reading List is available at www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo. It can also be viewed through the Parent Portal and on the page www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome for newly enrolled families.

I am anxious to discuss these books with you when return to school. It is my sincere hope that you will gain new insights into our world and our culture by reading some of these fantastic pieces of literature. May you enjoy the learning process, and may the thrill of a new book make these months memorable.

Here's to a beautiful, book-filled summer!

See you in August,
Mrs. MacRae
cmacrae@shadysideacademy.org
Form II English