

FRESHMAN SUMMER READING LETTER 2021

Dear Freshmen:

Below are your summer reading lists and assignments. Please purchase the books. You will be asked to bring them to class. These assignments, due on the first full day of class, are to be completed for each book. You may hand write your responses or present on a google doc. Whichever format you choose, please be sure to proofread your work. Please put your work into a 2-pocket folder and with a label bearing your name. A test will be given during the first week of class. Please note that the Honors students have an additional book to read.

Freshman and Honors Classes:

Gorilla, My Love

Author: Toni Cade Bambara [fiction]

World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies; Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

Author: Aimee Nezhukumatathil [nonfiction]

Honors Only:

The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail

Author: Robert Lee and Jerome Lawrence [drama]

(Honors) for *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*: Write a 5 paragraph essay defining civil disobedience and discussing whether civil disobedience is ever an acceptable response to a social problem? In your essay, refer to the play and to two historical examples of civil disobedience (the civil rights movement; Salt March in India; Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar, for example).

For the two books required for all freshman students, keep a brief journal in which you record the following:

For *Gorilla, My Love*: record the main **characters** - their traits, significant conflicts or obstacles they face; **the plot** - with a sense of beginning, middle, end; significant aspects of setting; and **themes** for each story.

Choose two quotations **per story**. Record and comment on the significance of each.

For *World of Wonders*, record the author's central argument in this non-fiction work. What specific evidence – examples, anecdotes, expert testimony – does she offer in support of her argument?

Assess the value/success of her argument? Did she persuade you? Why or why not? What, in your opinion, was Nezhukumatathil's most compelling point? Why?

If you have any questions you may contact Ms. Caughey @ caughey.j@stsaviour.org

Happy reading!