

English 11 Summer Reading Assignment **(Optional Enrichment - Ungraded)**

The first unit in 11th grade English is **Race, Culture, and Identity**. “A person can spend a lifetime trying to figure out who he ‘really’ is. This struggle to know oneself is often shaped by—and also complicated by—such factors as race, ethnic background, and culture. This unit examines the extent to which race and culture shape a person’s identity, as well as the roles race and culture play in American society. The texts in the unit include characters or speakers who are engaged in the struggle to define themselves both within and beyond the boundaries of race and cultural background. Students are encouraged to think about how racial and cultural issues manifest in their communities, as well as where and how such issues arise in their own lives” (English 11 Curriculum).

Take some time this summer to read a book that has something to do with race, culture, or identity and address one of the unit’s focus questions.

Book suggestions:

- A book that has to do with race, culture, or identity
- At least 100 pages
- **NOT a book you already read in the MCPS curriculum**

Optional Assignment (Ungraded):

Choose ONE of the focus questions below and answer it in a multi-paragraph essay. Start with a claim in your introduction, and be sure to refer to the author and title of the book. Body paragraphs or support paragraphs will provide a thorough explanation, including three or more quotations to support your argument. Cite the quotations and any paraphrases.

Focus questions (choose ONE):

- To what extent do race and culture shape your main character’s identity?
- To what extent does race or cultural background shape your main character’s place in his or her society?