June 2017

Dear parents and students:

To highlight the importance of each student’s continuing to read and to add a valuable novel to next year’s curriculum for English 11 Honors, we would like to encourage your child to read one of the following supplemental novels for the 1st Marking Period in the Fall of 2017:

 *Jayber Crow: A Novel*, by Wendell Berry

 *March*, by Geraldine Brooks

*The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the*

*Oxford*

*English Dictionary,* by Simon Winchester

*The Handmaid’s Tale,* by Margaret Atwood

 *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing (Vol. I)*, by M.T. Anderson

 *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown

We will use these supplemental novels, and the students’ knowledge of such throughout the academic year. We will be discussing how these novels relate to the topics of other pieces of literature used in English 11 Honors, and we will discuss common themes and literary criticisms. Each student will submit a Long Form Literary Analysis for the novel chosen (students can find the form as a Word Document on Mrs. Mason’s website). For this reason in the past, our students have found it helpful to obtain personal copies of their novel of choice. As for accountability, each student will be assessed on his/her understanding of the novel. We will collect the log as follows:

* October 4, 2017
* Our discussions on the texts will occur shortly after

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher:

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We look forward to an exciting year of studying American literature!

Sincerely yours,

Mary Mason and Michael Pope