

## Summer Reading Assignment, 2017

Dear Roosevelt Student,

Welcome to Roosevelt High School! As your Social Studies and Language Arts block teachers, we are very excited for your arrival and expect many good things from the class of 2021. This summer you will be making important transitions between your life in middle school and your future as a Roughrider. Because Roosevelt is a place that values a strong life of the mind, and because your blocked LA and SS classes will explore cultures and literature outside the United States, we would like you to challenge yourself to read some international literature this summer. We are asking that you read at least one of the books from the attached list and have a conversation with a family member about that book.

Here are the books, with their countries of origin, their page numbers, and, where available, lexile scores. Lexile scores measure the difficulty of a text based on vocabulary and sentence length, where 805-1100 is typical of an average 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and 940-1210 is typical of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Julia Alvarez, *Before We Were Free* (Dominican Republic, 192 pages, lexile score 890)  
Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John* (Antigua, 148 pages, lexile score 1220)  
Yukio Mishima, *Sound of the Waves* (Japan, 192 pages)  
Erich Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Germany, lexile score 830)  
Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (India, 219 pages, lexile score 940)  
Asne Seierstad (Norwegian), *Bookseller of Kabul* (Afghanistan, 288 pages)  
Quang Van Nguyen and Marjorie Pivar, *Fourth Uncle on the Mountain* (Vietnam, 368 pages)  
Eric Weiner, *Geography of Bliss* (United States, 338 pages)

Your Task:

- Choose a book from the above reading list you'd like to read over the summer and read it.
- As you read your book, take notes or answer the following questions:
  1. What new things are you learning from reading this book? What are you learning about the culture, history, or geography of the country in which the novel takes place?
  2. What character or culture did you feel the most connected to? The least? Explain why.
  3. What choices do you notice the author making—such as choices about style, structure, characters, plot, or about anything else in the construction of the narrative?
  4. Would you recommend this book to another person? Why or why not?
- After completing the book, talk to a family member about it for at least twenty minutes, and together complete the form below, and attach your notes to this sheet.

We look forward to meeting you! Your Language Arts and Social Studies teachers.

Your name:	The book you read:
The family member with whom you had the conversation:	Relationship of the family member to you:
Your signature, testifying to the following:  I fully read the book listed above and had a decent conversation with a family member about it.  Signature:	The family member's signature, testifying to the following:  The reader had a conversation with me about the book named above and seemed knowledgeable about the book and the experience of reading the book.  Signature: