



June 30, 2011

Dear Prep Freshmen,

Once again, welcome to the community of Prep readers! I would like to review with you what you should be doing this summer in terms of your reading. First, as I stated in my June 13th letter to you, the teachers in the Prep English Department have issued you a **required reading** for the summer. This book, *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* was mailed to your home earlier this summer. You need to read this book, and read it *actively*—which means that as you read, you should underline or highlight important passages. Also take notes in the margin on your reading. These markings you make on your reading will help you remember more of what you read and also provide you with points to raise in discussion once you return to school in September.

Also go to the Summer Reading link for the English Department on the Prep website (www.sjprep.org) to access the Questions for Reflection and Discussion. Perhaps on a separate piece of paper, write notes in response to these questions. Your English teacher may not necessarily collect your notes on the first day of school. Still, you will be assessed on your reading in some way (through a reading test, essay, and/or creative project) depending on what English teacher you have. I therefore highly recommend that you take notes on your reading as these notes will help you in your classwork related to this book once you return in September. To clear up any confusion, note that there is no “assignment” that you need to submit on the first day of school for the required reading.

Next, as I mentioned in my other letter to you and your parents, there is **EXTRA CREDIT** available to all incoming freshmen. You can find these extra-credit opportunities below. They will also appear on the Prep website in the next few days. **Note that these extra-credit tasks/activities are OPTIONAL.** If you decide to take advantage of an extra-credit opportunity, you need to hand your work into your English teacher on the first day of school. Note that it is up to the discretion of your particular English teacher as to how he or she will reward you points for your extra-credit work. If you do not decide to do an extra-credit task, you will not find yourself “behind” in any way. Again, these extra-credit opportunities are optional, not required.

In addition to the required reading and the optional extra-credit readings, I encourage you to read for your own entertainment and enlightenment in any area that strikes you as worthy of your time. Seek to find something of yourself and for yourself in the great literature you read. Often the works which seem most inaccessible or remote from our own experience become, with

an effort to appreciate the experiences of others and to see ourselves in those experiences, the most rewarding works of all.

Ultimately, the Prep English Department is strongly recommending that you read several books during the summer hiatus. You have a required reading in Wes Moore's memoir; read it, and read many others things. You are responsible for your own education, and that education will be richer and more impressive the more widely and intensively you read.

On behalf of the entire English Department, I wish you a relaxing and enriching summer experience. Please let me know if you have any questions at scook@sjprep.org

Sincerely,

Ms. Susan K. Cook
English Chairperson