



May 20th, 2011

Dear Prep Parents,

The St. Joseph's Prep English Department hopes this message finds you in the middle of a good book. Speaking of good books, we are excited to inform you of the English Department's Summer Reading Program for 2011. This year we are issuing students a **required reading**. In the last week of classes, students will receive their own copies of *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. They are to read this non-fiction memoir over the summer. Note that on your Prep account, you will find a charge of \$11.50 for this book, a reduced price from the usual \$15.00 for the book. We thank you for your support in this regard, and think that you will agree with us that this book is a worthwhile investment of your money and your son's time.

Indeed, in the time your son spends with this *New York Times* bestseller, he will likely find himself engaged in a memoir that is rich in struggle and searching on the part of author Wes Moore. I know that in my reading, I found it fascinating (if not altogether serendipitous) that it is another man of the same name who helps the author discover a bit more about himself and the intricate interplay of his past, present and future. Our author Wes Moore is a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, and White House Fellow. Our other Wes Moore is not a Rhodes Scholar or White House Fellow. He is a veteran of prison, a convicted murderer. Interestingly, these two Wes Moores grew up in the same Baltimore neighborhood. And there you have it: *One Name, Two Fates*.

As your son learns how these two men meet and get to know each other, he may also learn something about his own journey, something about decisions and choices, luck and fate. I encourage you to read the book as well. Like me, you might discover something about the power of relationships, or the power of the pen and the sword. You can learn more about Wes Moore, by the way, at <http://www.apbspeakers.com/wes-moore-speaker>. Again, sharing any book, as we all know, only enriches the reading experience. Hopefully you and your son can talk about the book together and maybe even find more similarities than differences between the two Wes Moores and yourselves.

Once students return to school in September, we will assess students in our English classes. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the book and reflecting on the questions attached to this letter. While students do not need to submit any work in response to these questions, they will need to be prepared to respond to the questions and discuss them in class. Your son should thus take notes on the reflection questions at home before he returns to school.

I am excited to announce that On October 6th, author Wes Moore will visit St. Joe's Prep to speak to the community about his journey in writing and living. We hope you and your son can attend this evening's talk, part of the Prep's Taggart Cultural Series. I would like to extend a big thank you to Ms. Judy Christian and the Taggart committee for inviting and welcoming Wes Moore into our school in the fall.

Finally, in addition to this new twist to our Summer Reading Program, we also are providing, as we have in the past, a list of our favorite books to the Prep Community. This list is again available at www.sjprep.org (a hard copy of this list is also attached to this letter). When you arrive at this homepage, head over to the "Summer Reading" tab on the left and you'll be all set with the books each English teacher has loved reading this year. While we do not *require* our students to read these books, we do hope that they—and you—read one or more of them...and pour yourself a glass of lemonade while you're at it.

Please note that extra credit is available only to incoming freshmen this year. In that vein, if you are the parent of an incoming freshman, please encourage your son to respond to one of the extra-credit opportunities at his disposal on the Summer Reading tab on the school's website. This work is due to his English teacher on his first day of school here at the Prep.

Through this letter, I hope we find ourselves on the same page about the English Department's Summer Reading Program for 2011. If you have any questions, please contact me at scook@sjprep.org.

On behalf of the English Department, have a great summer full of great books.

Sincerely,

Ms. Susie Cook
English Chairperson
St. Joseph's Preparatory School