

Dear Rising Seniors,

I know these last 15 months have been challenging in a thousand different ways, so here's to hopefully having a 'normal' senior year!

To prepare for it, I'd like you to do a **couple of things** over the summer:

- 1) Write a draft of your **college application** essay that we will revise in the first weeks of school
 - a. If you are not applying to college I'd like you to choose a prompt from the Common App (<https://www.commonapp.org/blog/2021-2022-common-app-essay-prompts>)
- 2) **Re-read a favorite book** that you haven't read since at least middle school, and this time you will read it from the perspective of someone who is older, and you will apply that understanding and skill to your thoughtful reading of it.
 - a. It can be **fiction or nonfiction**
 - b. It needs to be at least **150 pages**
 - c. You will **mark it up** (with sticky notes if you don't own it) as you track **one aspect of it**. You only need to choose **ONE**:
 1. **Writing** - your view of their writing style, use of imagery, metaphors, dialog, character development, or anything else about the way this writer writes that you want to focus on.
 2. **Characters** (if you're doing fiction) - how realistic/unrealistic are they, how much/little do you relate to them, analyze their relationships with each other, what do you think of how they're handling situations, or anything else that about character that you want to focus on
 3. **Themes** - track a particular theme or two that is prevalent in your book. Explain the theme and find examples of where it shows up
 4. **Your assessment/reflection of the topic** - for nonfiction books. Dig in a little deeper than what's being explained and give your own reaction to it.
 5. **Whatever else sticks out** (get it...sticks out? as in sticky notes..? Ha) **to you that you want to track!**

To find some book suggestions, check out [this list here](#) or [this tutorial](#) from Reina.

I hope you have a fun and relaxing summer - enjoy some downtime, reading, and hopefully getting a good start on college applications,

Catherine