



Junior Honors English 2021-2022 Summer Assignments

Welcome to Junior Honors English,

This is a class where we evaluate the ideas and perspectives of Americans written during pivotal times in our nation's history. We also strive to sharpen our writing and speaking skills through analysis of American fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. While our readings in class draw largely on America's past, you will notice that your summer readings are taken from America's present, from authors who are living and writing in your lifetime.

Your summer readings are **all poetry**. This was a deliberate choice on my part. Poets know language and understand usage well. They practice word-precision and word-economy, a skill today's communicators need. Developing a vibrant use of language should be one of your goals this upcoming year.

FIRST: Join the Class & Read over the Poetry Portfolio Assignment

- <https://classroom.google.com/> Code: **jmwyeut**
- If you know what the assignment is, it will help you as you read.
- If you are sharing, or borrowing the books, knowing the assignment will help you to take notes and/or pictures of texts you will need to put the portfolio together.

SECOND: Read the three novels, all written in poetry. Find a theme that appears in each story.

- *Long Way Down*, by Jason Reynolds (Do NOT read the graphic novel version for this assignment.)
- *Clap When You Land*, by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *Out of the Dust*, by Karen Hesse

THIRD: Choose one of America's Poet Laureates to add to the portfolio. (NOT Robert Frost.)

- There are numerous sources for America's Poet Laureates. Here is a good place to **start**: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-poets-laureate-of-the-United-States-1789232>
- **Memorize** one of the poems written by the Poet Laureate you've chosen—it must be a minimum of 15 lines—you will recite it when we return to school.

ASSESSMENTS:

- Your completed electronic portfolio is due on Classroom **August 16, 2021**.
- You will recite your memorized poem during the **first week** of school.
- **Another assessment** will be given to you based on your unified theme and the information you gathered in your portfolio when we return to school.

Anticipating a dynamic year,

Mrs. Roe

Junior Honors Teacher