

## Level II Summer Work 2017

### Honors English

Mrs. Swenson

[jcswenson@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jcswenson@henrico.k12.va.us)

*ALL WORK IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! NO EXCEPTIONS!*

Summer work is an opportunity for you to showcase what you have learned in Level I and provide me a sampling of your work. While you might think otherwise, I do not view summer work as a punishment but rather a way of keeping your mind stimulated and engaged during the relaxing summer months. Keeping this in mind, I have assigned you James McBride's best-selling memoir, The Color of Water. This book may be found in your local library or at your bookstore. Amazon.com also sells used copies for a very reasonable price.

*Note to parents:* "Henrico County Public Schools strongly encourages parents/guardians to work with their children as they read their summer reading books." Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions about the assignment or where to acquire this book. Keep in mind that you should not wait until the last minute to find a copy of this novel.

You should be prepared to write an analysis paper on McBride's memoir when you return in the September, so make sure you take careful notes as you read.

I am looking forward to working with you in the fall. Have a great summer!

**Your assignment:** Once you have finished reading McBride's novel, I want you to write a thoughtful, insightful two-page response to the following prompt, using McBride's memoir as a guide. Use the attached rubric as a guide. Worth a major assessment grade.

*Throughout his memoir, James struggles to understand his identity and come to terms with his place in society. However his mother, Ruth, has a different approach: "Matters involving race and identity she ignored." Rather than labeling herself (or her children) a skin color, Ruth identifies with the color of water, since water has no color.*

*Not thinking in terms of color associated with race (i.e. black or white), what color would you choose to label yourself if you had the chance? Why? What experiences make you choose this particular color? What does this color say about your personality? Why do you identify with it, and why do you want people to see you as this color?*

### Rubric for Summer Work

Traits:	4	3	2	1
<b>Focus and Detail</b>	There is one clear, focused topic. Main ideas are well supported with detail and information.	There is one clear, focused topic. Main ideas are clear, but not supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
<b>Organization</b>	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is presented in a logical, relevant order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. The conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure or conclusion
<b>Voice</b>	The author's purpose of writing is very clear and there is strong attention evidence of attention to the audience.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear and there is some evidence of attention to the audience.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear and/or confusing. There is some evidence of attention to the audience.	There is no sense of the author's purpose.
<b>Word Choice</b>	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the	The writer has a limited vocabulary. Clichés may be present and

	words seems natural, accurate and not forced.	words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	writing lacks variety.	distract from the meaning.
<b>Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling</b>	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes no errors in grammar, spelling, and/or mechanics.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied sentence structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, spelling, and/or mechanics but they do not interfere with the meaning.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar sentence structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, spelling, and/or mechanics that interfere with the meaning.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with the meaning.

Additional Comments:

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_/20