

Dear Incoming Freshman,

Welcome to West Campus! We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you. In order to start our school year off strongly, we have created a summer reading assignment that we believe you will enjoy. This reading supports the themes explored in ninth grade English: Coming of Age; Tolerance and Acceptance; and Moral Dilemmas. A careful read of this book will serve as the foundation for lessons throughout the school year.

The following outlines the summer reading program for your English course:

You must read *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd

**During the first weeks of school, you will take an exam and must be prepared to participate in a book talk and/or a Socratic Seminar on the novel.** These are designed for you to demonstrate your careful and thoughtful reading of the book. If your class has a book talk, you will schedule a brief appointment with your teacher for before school, at lunch, or after school during the first month of school. During the appointment you will prove your close reading by engaging in a detailed discussion of the book, including discussing a page selected randomly by your teacher, and answering questions asked by your teacher; therefore, read carefully. If your class holds a Socratic Seminar, your whole class will participate in thoughtful discussion by engaging in detailed exploration and close analysis of the book during class.

Additionally, you will have lessons and assignments designed around the book. Students must also bring the book to class for the first few weeks, beginning the first day of school.

You may purchase the book, or check it out from the public library. If you are unable to do either, please contact Katie Nobida after July 17<sup>th</sup> at 916-395-5170 for further instructions. However, it is best to acquire a personal copy, so you can take notes in it and have it readily available during the beginning months. Amazon.com offers many used books at reasonable rates.

We hope that you enjoy your reading and that you take the opportunity to get a head start on your high school career.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cannady  
Angela Tran Lo  
Shawna Placido Bell