

SUMMER READING 2009
English
Grade 10

Instructor: Ms. Combs
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PART ONE:

Read *The Color of Water*, by James McBride.

Assignment 1: Examining the Title (50 pts.)

Write a well-developed paragraph that addresses the following questions about the title of this autobiography: 1) Why does Ruth tell James, “God is the color of water”? 2) What is the effect of James accepting this? 3) Why does James say that his brother Richie does not accept this? 4) Why is the phrase, *the color of water*, the title of this book?

This assignment may be typed (with 1” margins, Times New Roman or Arial style font with a 12 pt. font size, a single spaced heading, a title, and a double spaced body) or very neatly hand-written (single-spaced heading and body). In either case, headings should appear in the top left corner and formatted as:

Your Name
Ms. Combs
English II
Date

Assignment 2: Examining Themes (150 pts.)

Some of the themes in the book include race, religion, identity, and family/parenting relationships. Choose three of the four themes listed above, and write a five-paragraph essay that discusses each theme’s connection to the text and to your own experience. This essay will have the same formatting requirements as above (including the heading). You will include a title, and the essay will start with an introductory paragraph, followed by three body paragraphs (that correspond with the three themes you choose), and a conclusion.

PART TWO:

Read *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, by Barack Obama.

Assignment: Journaling (25 pts per entry, for a total of 100 pts)

Write four journal entries:

- 1) Identify one theme in the book, and cite at least two examples from the text that illustrate that theme.
- 2) Choose a character from the book and list at least two comparisons between inner thoughts/feelings and outward actions.
- 3) Explain how Obama’s dreams were influenced by his upbringing.

- 4) Connect the text to your own life—how are some of the issues raised in the text similar to issues that you have experienced?

These assignments are due by the end of the **first** week of class. Late work will not be accepted. Be prepared to take a test on BOTH autobiographies when class resumes in the fall.

Enjoy reading, and have a wonderful summer!