



## REQUIRED SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2020

**School starts Tuesday, August 18th**

Students enrolling late in the summer should contact a school representative to find out what their summer assignment requirement will be.

**All students will have assignments to complete. All summer assignments are due the first day back after the break and will be factored into the student's first Progress Report grade.**

### **Incoming 9th and 10th Graders**

Please read the book assigned below. You can find it at your local bookstore, or at Amazon or Barnes & Noble online. Non-native speakers can consult translations into other languages (Chinese, Japanese, etc.), but should attempt to read the book in English as best they can. Bring a printed copy of your response on the first day of school.

***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho

**Publisher:** HarperOne: Anniversary edition (April 15, 2014)

**ISBN - 10:** 0062315005

**ISBN - 13:** 978-0062315007

**A.** Read The novel and write 200 words for each prompt below (800 words in total):

1. Why is *The Alchemist* divided into two parts? What lesson or point does each part make?
2. In *The Alchemist*, Santiago is going after a literal treasure: buried gold. Why do you think that Coelho chose such a concrete, obvious treasure instead of something more abstract?
3. Many of the wise people that Santiago meets are really old. What does this tell you about wisdom in *The Alchemist*? What do young people have to offer?
4. Do you think that it's a good idea to use *The Alchemist* as a self-help book, applying its lessons to your life? Why or why not?

**B.** Design a book cover for *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Your book cover must include

- A clear title and author name
- A graphic design that reflects the books themes
- A summary of the plot without giving away the ending
- A review (opinion) about the book

Be prepared to present your book cover and evaluate others' on the first day of school.

### **Incoming 11th and 12th Graders**

Please read the book assigned below. You can find it at your local bookstore, or at Amazon or Barnes & Noble online. Non-native speakers should read the book in English. Bring a printed copy of your responses on the first day of school.

***The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts***

**Author:** Maxine Hong Kingston.

1555 Irving Street  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
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www.wissf.org • info@wissf.org



**Publisher:** Vintage International, a division of Random House, Inc.

**ISBN 10:** 0679721886

**ISBN 13:** 9780679721888

**A.** Read the novel and write 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced in 12-point font answering the following questions:

1. What is the novel about?
2. What is important about the title?
3. What do you think the intention of the author was in writing this novel?
4. Throughout *The Woman Warrior*, Kingston explores how her Chinese cultural history can be reconciled with her emerging sense of herself as an American. Is she successful in this endeavor? Support your answer with examples from the text.

**B.** Design a book jacket for *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong Kingston.

Your jacket must include

- A clear title and author name
- A graphic design that reflects the book's themes
- A summary of the plot without giving away the ending
- A review (opinion) about the book

Be prepared to present your book cover and evaluate others' on the first day of school.

### **New and Returning International Students:**

International students needing ESL classes are placed into two groups: ESL I/II for beginning to intermediate English learners, and ESL II/III for intermediate to advanced English learners. Students who find these assignments too challenging should email the school at [admin@wissf.org](mailto:admin@wissf.org). We recommend that all international students take intensive English classes. Students must bring their work on the first day of school.

ESL I/II for beginning to intermediate English learners

- Write a one-page description of your country of origin. Write a short composition of about 400-500 words that describes the place and some things that a visitor might be interested in: places to see, food, nightlife, weather, environment, natural and historical sites, etc. Please bring your assignment on the first day of class.
- Complete the following six week course [TOEFL® Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide](#) and send a photograph of proof of completion to [jwalsh@wissf.org](mailto:jwalsh@wissf.org)

ESL II/III/IV for intermediate to advanced English learners

- Write a one-page description of your country of origin. Write a short composition of about 500-600 words that describes the place and some things that a visitor might be interested in: places to see, food, nightlife, weather, environment, natural and historical sites, etc. Please bring your assignment on the first day of class.

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# Woodside International School of San Francisco

- Complete the following four week course <https://www.edx.org/course/upper-intermediate-english-modern-life> and send a photograph of proof of completion to [jwalsh@wissf.org](mailto:jwalsh@wissf.org)

### **All Students' History Assignments:**

**9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Graders:** World Cultures and Civilizations summer assignment. Please visit <https://woodsideworldcivilizations.weebly.com/> for the details.

**11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Government and Economics summer assignment. Please visit

<https://woodsidegovernment.weebly.com/> for the details. **Please email Dean Church at [dchurch@wissf.org](mailto:dchurch@wissf.org) if you have questions about your history work.**

### **College Counseling Assignment:**

**12<sup>th</sup> Graders** Answer each of the questions below, using different information and examples for each topic.

Write at least 200 words for each of these questions:

- What are my most important characteristics and accomplishments that I would want colleges to know about me.
- What are the biggest challenges I have faced in life, and how have I overcome them.
- How do I envision myself ten years after high school graduation? What will I have done during those ten years of my life? What will I be doing for employment and for personal satisfaction?

### **Health Class Assignment: Incoming 9th and 10th Graders:**

Find a health related newspaper/magazine/internet article. Bring a print version of the article to the first day of class. Write at least 150 words for each of the questions below and be ready to present the article's main points and your answers to the questions below, during the first health class.

1. What are the main points of this article?
2. Why is this article important to you and to others?
3. What evidence do you have that the information in the article is complete and accurate? What further evidence is needed to confirm accuracy?
4. What is a serious health issue facing teens today? How can we tackle this problem?

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