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## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Senior Students/Parents/Guardians,

Reading is an essential part of everyday life. Reading during the summer months will help build reading skills, vocabulary, and focus. In an effort to encourage reading and prepare you for the school year ahead and for college, you are to complete both the college essay and summer reading assignment below.

Thank you for doing your best in becoming a better reader and learner at JKO!

Sincerely,

The English Department

Task I - College Essay (from the Common Application):

In order to ensure that you are provided with multiple opportunities for feedback and that your college application is submitted on time, it is essential that you complete your first draft of the college essay over the summer. A written response to one of the following prompts in no more than 650 words is due on the first Friday of the first week of school in September.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success.
3. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
4. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
5. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
6. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
7. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Task II** - Read one of the text below and complete the attached analysis chart (one for every 50 pages of the text).

Kindred, by Octavia Butler (You can obtain the book at your local library or simply report to the school during a summer school day for a copy.)

The first science fiction written by a black woman, *Kindred* has become a cornerstone of black American literature. This combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction is a novel of rich literary complexity. Having just celebrated her 26th birthday in 1976 California, Dana, an African-American woman, is suddenly and inexplicably wrenched through time into antebellum Maryland. After saving a drowning white boy there, she finds herself staring into the barrel of a shotgun and is transported back to the present just in time to save her life. During numerous such time-defying episodes with the same young man, she realizes the challenge she's been given...

In completing Parts 1 and 2 of the summer project, students should be prepared to present their information in class during the first week of the Fall 2021 semester.

### Text Analysis Chart

	Meaningful Quotations/Page Number (Annotate and identify key words within the quote)	Commentary and Analysis (Explain the importance of the quote and the key words identified)	What is one literary technique/element that the author uses and why is it important? Include the page number for this piece of evidence
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**Task III:** Complete the Review of the Book below.

### **Review of Book**

1. Introduce your book. Tell the audience what your book is about, who the author is, and the genre of the book:

2. Describe the main idea of the book, and how the author conveys the focus through the language. Refer to Part 1 of the project and gather evidence that clearly supports the focus of the book. Make at least 5 points that clearly support the main idea of the book and convey why it is important. Your 5 main points must be supported by the evidence you gathered in Part 1.

3. Write about a pivotal moment in the book, why it is significant, and how it connects to another text, to yourself, or to society. Make sure to support your answer with the evidence you collected in Part 1.



4. Would you recommend this book to your peers? Make sure to write about how the text impacted your way of thinking, explain how the text has the potential to be beneficial to your peers, and why it is a valuable resource.