



**CROSSROADS
COLLEGE PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

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Dear students entering 8th grade,

May 2020

Reading for pleasure is one of the traits that unites people who succeed academically while serving as an inexpensive window onto multiple worlds. You do not have enough days in a lifetime to travel the world, nor the capacity to travel backward or forward in time, but through literature, it is all possible. Find books you absolutely love; get a librarian's help. Find great stories, and immerse yourself in them!

VOCABULARY: Between eating ice cream, swimming, and sleeping late, we ask that you review and know your Latin bases from lessons 1 through 10 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*. As well as knowing the meaning of each base, please memorize at least one vocabulary word for each base, know how to spell it, and learn a sentence that uses the word correctly and shows meaning. Every student needs the workbook and will use it throughout his or her tenure at Crossroads College Prep. We will learn lessons 11-20 in 8th grade; you may wish to get ahead.

READING: As well as the many books you will read for pleasure, we have a few assignments to prepare you for 8th grade English at Crossroads College Prep. We require that you read *The Hate U Give* (by Angie Thomas), and choose either *Tallgrass* (by Sandra Dallas) or *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* (by Sherman Alexie). Please actively read both the novels: there is an assignment of note-taking and analysis for each.

Happy reading; happy summer! I look forward to learning together in the fall.

Sarah Pierson Wolff, 8th grade English

For English class, on Monday, August 24, come to school with

- Copies of *The Hate U Give* and either *Tallgrass* or *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (with required notes in them)
- Two quotation analysis charts (one on each novel) each with 20 rows and 4 columns
- (note: we will have a Latin bases 1-10 test in the first few weeks of school)

READING

As you read,

1. please make note of passages that show BIAS or GROWTH. Underline these passages and write “B” or “G” in the margin. If it is a library book, make note on paper which you keep for pages with “B” or “G”. You should have 15 or more of each (30 total per book).

After you finish each book,

2. choose five of the best BIAS quotations from each novel, and copy each into the chart. Write what each quotation shows about bias, analyzing the quotations. Impress me.
3. Then, repeat step two, this time analyzing GROWTH. (In total, you’ll be analyzing ten quotations from each novel, for a total of 20 quotations analyzed.)
4. Make a chart. Your chart will have 20 rows and 4 columns. Here’s 1 entry as an example. Be as good as this or better. You may not use this as one of yours.

	quotation	page	analysis
<i>Tallgrass</i> BIAS 1	“I don’t want my kids playing with Japs,” a woman called out.	30	In this quotation, the reader sees the upsetting and obvious bias of the town against people of Japanese descent. The woman speaking uses the term “Japs” comfortably as well as implying that these children are a bad influence on her children simply because they are of Japanese descent.

VOCABULARY and LATIN roots

Review your Latin roots: Students entering our 8th grade need to have memorized the Latin bases in Lessons 1-10 in *Everyday Words from Classic Origins*.

1. Memorize the meaning of all the bases in lessons 1-10. I recommend flashcards.
2. Learn a vocabulary word for each base (again, flashcards). Make sure the word actually uses the Latin root: check its etymology.
3. Learn to use the word well. Practice composing sentences that use the word and show meaning.