Welcome, future students! I am excited to meet you in August and I hope that you are equally excited to begin studying with me next year.

During the summer, students typically read a full-length text and that becomes our first text of study. With these crazy times, this will not be the case. Instead, I will provide you with articles and links to pieces that I would like you to read over the summer. I will also have a suggested timeline for completion so that you can space your work out as much as possible.

When we meet together, you will need to have all of the pieces read, annotated, and prepared for discussion.

Here is a link to the folder with all of the articles/stories.

Here is the suggested schedule:

June: “A Nose for Words” and “The Pleasure of Books”
July: “Notes on Punctuation” and “Where I Lived and What I Lived For”
August: “Sonny’s Blues”

In regards to your annotations, here is some information:

Annotation is simply noting words on the page that strike you, phrases that confuse or thrill you, or places where you want to talk back to the speaker or [author]. Your goal is to record ideas and impressions for future analysis. Why bother to do this? Here’s what well-known scholar and avid reader Mortimer Adler says in How to Read a Book:

Why is marking up a [text] indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don’t mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked [text] is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thought you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.

So whether you use sticky notes, highlight passages, or write comments directly in the margins, annotation helps you become a better reader. There are no hard-and-fast rules for annotating properly, but the following approach is a good way to get started. (NOTE: If you are unable to print these documents, please do not worry! As an alternative, you may take notes in a notebook. If you choose to take notes in a notebook, we recommend that you include page numbers and direct quotations so that you may better recall and understand why you took them.)

I am looking forward to a fantastic 2020-2021 school year.

Have a wonderful summer.

Please contact me with any questions:

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