

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2021**



Dear Incoming Dual Enrollment Senior,
(Creative Writing/Nation, Identity, and Literature)

We hope that this letter finds you well and anticipating the end of a rewarding year. We hope that you will have many good experiences and make many good decisions before we see you again in August. One of those decisions we would like to help you with is the decision to remain engaged in some kind of academic activity this summer. It is our belief that encouraging students to read year-round is a key element in the development of lifelong learners. While the summer is certainly time to be away from school, we hope that it is not a time to stop reading, thinking, and growing.

You will read two books this summer (see below). These required works will be part of the work for each course. These books have been selected for their interest level and readability as well as for their challenging, compelling content. In short, you should expect to think, but they should be fun to read.

Please read the assignment below; you will find information to help you focus your attention while you read.

Required Books:

- ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor (Revised Edition)*** by Thomas C. Foster
“A lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable...Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Foster provides...a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower-and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.”
- ***The Character of Rain*** by Amélie Nothomb
The novel, apparently autobiographical, describes the world as discovered and seen by a three-year-old child born in Japan to a Belgian family. It encompasses the themes of self-awareness, language acquisition, bilingualism, and developmental psychology. The novel is initially told in the third person as we learn about this unusual baby simply called ‘Tube’ or ‘Plant’ who is born completely unresponsive. Everything soon changes as out of nowhere this child finds a voice and won’t shut up.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Over the course of the summer, your task is to carefully read and annotate **both books**. Within the first meetings of class, you will be responsible for completing various assessments that use your summer reads as anchor texts. These assessments will rely on an understanding of the Grad @ Grad components, personal reflection, and true knowledge of the books as a whole. Be prepared to rely on the content and knowledge throughout the course, so take good notes you can refer back to as needed. These books are meant to be touchstones for the course and content, so please be ready to apply your reading to discussions, themes, and assignments.