



WHERE *Brilliance* BEGINS

**9th Grade World Literature Summer Reading**

**Reading:** You will read a total of three novels this summer.

Please read one novel from this choice list:

<p><i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan</p>	<p>Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.</p>
<p><i>Zlata's Diary</i> by Zlata Filipovic</p>	<p>When Zlata's Diary was first published at the height of the Bosnian conflict, it became an international bestseller and was compared to <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>, both for the freshness of its voice and the grimness of the world it describes. It begins as the day-today record of the life of a typical eleven-year-old girl, preoccupied by piano lessons and birthday parties. But as war engulfs Sarajevo, Zlata Filipovic becomes a witness to food shortages and the deaths of friends and learns to wait out bombardments in a neighbor's cellar. Yet throughout she remains courageous and observant.</p>
<p><i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini</p>	<p><i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters</p>

	brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.
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*Summaries taken from Goodreads.com*

**Reading, continued:**

Additionally, you will read two required novels:

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

**Writing:** Upon your return to school, you will consider the role of women in each of these novels. We will embark in an all-school unit relating to women's rights and the 100th year celebration of women's suffrage. Please annotate your three books to relate to this overarching theme. It is best to obtain copies for the first few weeks of school. I have limited copies of Malala and Mango in my classroom to check-out for the summer. Your first essay will cover this theme. The prompt will be revealed upon your return.

**Speaking:** You will need to come to class prepared to discuss each novel on the first day of school. It will help with your comprehension if you research the background information outside of the story you are reading. What was it like during that time? What would have been like to live there? How is this life different or the same to your own? Think about the woman's perspective. How do women stand up to the roles that are asked to play? Take time to create relevance and background knowledge! Be prepared to share upon your return to school.

**Happy reading!**