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### AP Language and Composition: “Identity” Summer Reading Assignment

**Welcome to AP Language and Composition**, a course that is designed to make you a stronger reader, writer, and analyzer! In AP Lang, our main objective is to break down the arguments that authors create (rhetorical analysis), and to create our own arguments using post-secondary sophistication and style (argumentation).

The summer reading and writing assignments outlined below are designed to demonstrate your ability as a reader, critical analyzer, and writer. It is imperative that you come to class on the first day with detailed familiarity of your novels, and a well written reflective essay. These assignments will help me to identify where our strengths lie, as well as where we need to focus our efforts.

#### **Required reading (3 novels):**

**All AP Lang students are expected to read the following:**

1. *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
2. *Why We Can't Wait* by Martin Luther King Jr.
3. In addition, AP Lang students should **choose one** of the following novels for their 3rd summer read
  - *John Adams* by David McCullough
  - *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
  - *The Color of Water* by James McBride
  - *Death be not Proud* by John J. Gunther
  - *The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman
  - *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

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**Writing Task:** As you complete your summer reading list, keep in mind the follow list of “BIG” questions.

- What does the word “identity” mean? What are some of the ways in which people identify themselves?
- Some identities can be seen by others and other identities are only known to others if the individual chooses to share it. What are some of the identities that you can usually “see”? What are some identities that you might not be able to see?
- How much control do we have in shaping our own identity?
- To what extent do those around us shape our identities? –Our environments? –Our families?

**After reading your three novels, and considering their content –create an argument about your own sense of identity.** Your argument can be very concise and focused, or rather holistic (as the kids say –“meta”). The key here, is to create an authentic argument about the formation of your own identity (your thesis), and to support it with evidence from your

personal experiences, knowledge, and reading. I am purposefully leaving this assignment a bit vague, but here are some things to consider:

- This should not be a typical, 5-paragraph essay structure. Play around with syntax and diction to demonstrate your best writer's craft.
- Your thesis should not be a three pointed thesis. We try to avoid those in Lang.
- Since this essay is about you, you are free to use "I". Enjoy!
- Vivid imagery will help your reader (me), to connect with your story telling. Be liberal with figurative language!
- Length –please don't email me requesting a required length. Show me who you are in your writing. Be creative. Have fun. This should be an exercise in demonstrating your abilities AND your creative identity.
- Your essay will be worth 50 mastery points, so implement care in its creation.