

FENWICK



To: The Class of 2023
From: The O'Rourke Library & Information Center
RE: Summer One Read
Date: June, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Bishop Fenwick High School. As your children are relaxing and enjoying the warmth of the summer sun, we hope they do so with a book in their hands! The following are instructions for our **required** One Read program.

The goal of our summer One Read is to encourage our students to read and provide them with a positive experience that extends beyond the book. We believe in the One Read concept as a whole school community; and as such, require everyone, faculty and students alike, to read one book that we will share together in a number of ways. Parents are also invited to read the book as part of a shared experience with your child.

According to reading experts, when students read widely and often, they develop higher-order thinking skills and a love for reading and learning. Reading helps them to feel more optimistic, and to see a world in which they can reach higher and achieve their dreams. Students who want to read drive their own learning, which can be many times more powerful than simply following along in a class assignment and reading strictly for information purposes.

This year's One Read is ***A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*** edited by Ellen Oh. The book is an anthology of short stories written by 15 recognized young adult fiction authors. The list of contributors are all accomplished writers with strong track records in the fiction field. Although the quality of writing is strong throughout, readers will find themselves more attracted to some stories than others and that's where the fun begins.

This is the 14th Anniversary of our One Read Program and this is an exciting change of pace for us. In this age of technology, we are interested in getting a better understanding of how competing interests impact the choices students make in the area of reading for pleasure. By requiring students to read a minimum of three short stories from the book over the summer, we are addressing the readers' preference to choose what they like. It is true that the more we read the better, so the anthology provides many more stories and we are encouraging students to read beyond the requirement. It's also important to note that each student will be asked to write a short reflection paragraph that considers why some stories were passed over while others selected for a close read. Students will attach their reflections to the Summer Read Project they submit on the first day of school. The reflections should include the student's observations about how they approached the summer reading, which stories they selected and why.

Students ready to dig into their summer reading will be excited to see that the authors share the ancient roots of each newly woven tale, making the relationship between reader and writer tangible. The collected stories range from ghost lovers and star-crossed romance to android wars, virtual reality, and the social complications of high school. Areas of the world reflected in the various cultures represented, put the focus on parts of East Asia and South Asia, encouraging readers, we hope, to pull out their maps and expand their global awareness.

Of this book, Publishers Weekly wrote, "Thoughtfully compiled and written, this compendium is a must-read." The American Library Association wrote, "Ranging from traditional stories to contemporary to science fiction and populated with everything from goddesses to androids and vampires, there is something for everyone." And, Common Sense Media says, "There's a lot to love in this collection of Asian myths and legends, retold, re-imagined, and re-examined by authors delving into their cultural roots."

Requirements: All students are required to read at least three short stories from ***A Thousand Beginnings and Endings***, & another book (s) from their 2019 English Department summer reading list. **Refer to the Bishop Fenwick website, www.fenwick.org** and select the **Academics Tab and then click on Library** to locate the O'Rourke Library & Information Center for Summer Reading Program details. **All students** will have a choice of stories (3) and a choice of ways to respond to ***A Thousand Beginnings and Endings***. Freshmen are encouraged to write and mail a letter to the author c/o the publisher. Some, however, may decide to select from the options designed for Sophomores, Juniors, and

Turn Over Please

Seniors. Student One Read projects will be assessed in time to be included with the first quarter scores for report cards and count as the students' first quiz grade in Religion. Projects are due in Homeroom on Sept. 4, 2019. A reading reflection paragraph must be attached to the project and both submitted to the Homeroom teacher.

Availability of Books: Students are required to get a copy of the book, print is preferred but not mandatory. A print, audio or eBook copy of *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* may be obtained at your public library, local bookstores or through online sources like Amazon.com.

Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: Using a minimum of three shorty stories from *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* respond in one of the following ways:

Letter to the Author: Freshmen Only. Students are asked to write a letter to an author whose story is included in this anthology. This is more than an academic exercise and the finished product needs to be more than a fan letter. Two things you need to know, authors are people, just like you. They write to entertain but also to say something worth saying through the vehicle of storytelling. Student letters can focus on a single short story selected from three found in *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* or read all 15 short stories and write to the editor of the anthology. **A reading reflection paragraph must also be submitted with the letter.** See the description, the FAQs and the rubric for details

NOTE: Those freshmen who are attending the *All Aboard 2023 Program* will be using *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* as a backdrop to the study skills they will be learning. The Letter to the Author option is designed for **Freshmen Only**. Freshmen are welcome to choose one of the other project options instead of writing the letter if they prefer. The Letter to the Author project is **NOT** a summer option for 2019-20 Soph., Jr. and Sr. students.

Altered Book Project: Make an altered book. An altered book is an old book changed into a piece of artwork. Typically the point of creating an altered book is to create a piece of artwork. However, for this project, you will need to create a relationship between your artwork and the three short stories you select from *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*. Choose themes, symbols, characters, or plot lines; whatever you choose needs to be woven into your artwork. The altered book must include a two-paragraph analysis describing the relationship of the stories to your creative work. **In addition, a reading reflection paragraph must also be submitted with the project.** See directions, FAQs and the rubric for details.

Photography Project: This project option is for those who want to create an art exhibit that focuses on how three short stories from *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* inspired a collection of creative and interpretive photographic art. Create an art exhibit that, through photos and captions, conveys the themes, characters, plot lines etc. of the three short stories. Select a series of meaningful quotes from the book that are representative of the original stories. Beneath each passage, paste a photo that helps your reader see what the original authors conveyed in the text of the stories. **A reading reflection paragraph must also be submitted with this project.** See the description, FAQs & the rubric for details.

Short Story Creative Writing Project: This is an opportunity to experience what it feels like to write a short story and submit it for publication. Stories should have teens as the main characters and be about the teen experience. Like *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*, your short story needs to be rooted in a folktale or legend somehow related to your cultural heritage. The story should be well-written young adult fiction between 2,000 and 4,500 words. Stories will be considered for submission to a teen focused publication. **A reading reflection paragraph must also be submitted with this project.** See the description, FAQs and the rubric for details.

If you have any questions about the projects or about the choice of reading, please contact Ms. Smith at dms@fenwick.org. I will be happy to discuss any questions or comments.

Happy Reading!

