

REQUIRED Summer Reading Novel:

Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Water Dancer* (2019)

Acquire your own copy of the novel, and you may read the novel in print (new or used) or electronic versions. If you have already read this novel, reread it.

Language Warning: This novel does repeatedly use a word that our society is currently processing how to use/when to use/if it should be used/who may use it, etc. Ta-Nehisi Coates is a contemporary Black, male writer writing about 1850's America, the decade leading up to the American Civil War (1861-1865). Please be ready for Coates to implement this word for his artistic goals in this novel. Perhaps the most constructive questions you could ask include these: Why is Coates having a character use the word? Why do some characters never use it? What does it say about characters who do and who don't?

SUGGESTED READING SCHEDULE:

Below is a schedule for spreading reading over both June and July. There are 403 pages, so if you decide to do it all in one month or the other, do the math: you'll need to read about 100 pages a week, which breaks down to 14-15 pages a day.

Week 1: June 4-June 10

–Review "WD Resource Doc" emailed to you in late May. This document is REQUIRED reading and will help you with the historical context of the novel.

–Read *WD*, pages 1-50 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 2: June 11-June 17

–Read *WD*, pages 51-100 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 3: June 18-June 24

–Read *WD*, pages 101-151 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 4: June 25-July 1

–Read *WD*, pages 152-200 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 5: July 2-8

–Read *WD*, pages 201-250 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 6: July 9-15

–Read *WD*, pages 251-300 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 7: July 16-22

–Read *WD*, pages 301-350 (about 7 pages a day)

Week 8: July 23-29

-Read *WD*, pages 351-403 (about 8 pages a day)

What I Expect From You in August:

1. Quotations List for 48 Quotes (Due First Day of Class)

- a. Note and type in 12 quotes for each of these four characters: Thena, Sophia, Corrine, Harriet "Moses" Tubman
- b. This will equal 48 quotes (12 per woman character listed above)
- c. Quotes can be something one of the women says OR something said about her/a description, as long as it links to personality, worldview, attitude, etc.
- d. Quotes must be fairly evenly spaced in the novel from when each female character appears to when she exits the novel.
- e. Quotes must have substance (see examples below):
 - Good Quote: "Thena kept to herself, never joining in on the gossip, small talk, or singing" (14). *This offers insight into Thena's personality.*
 - Bad Quote: "Thena sat in the chair" (13). *Just a random action.*
- f. DUE: Printed or shared Google doc by class time on the first day of class.
- g. These quotes are in preparation for writing our first essay of the year!
- h. HOT TIP: If you want to save yourself time once the school year starts, introduce the quotes with the plot point and the speaker when you record them (so you don't have to look all 48 of them up again later. It's not required, but quotes with introductions are always welcome!)

2. Summer Reading Exam (First Block Day of First Full Week in August)

- a. The Summer Reading Exam will happen during the first block class of the first full week of class, August 2023.
- b. The Summer Reading Exam will cover *The Water Dancer* and all the material included in the "WD Resource Document," emailed to you in late May, 2023.
- c. You may use any notes you personally took over the novel, handwritten or printed out. (You may not have your book in the exam.)
- d. All questions will be short answers, 4-5 sentence responses.
- e. Strong answers will be claim + text. Example: Corrine makes personal sacrifices to help the Underground Railroad (claim) like when she gets engaged to Maynard Walker (specific example).
- f. Handwritten test, unless you have an accommodation plan that allows you to take written tests on the computer.
- g. The Summer Reading Exam is the first big grade of the year, so take it very seriously.

