



Eleanor Roosevelt High School

411 East 76th Street • New York, NY 10021 • Tel: 212.772.1220 • Fax: 212.772.1440
Dimitri Saliani - principal www.erhsnyc.org

Dear 9th Grade Student,

As part of Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s class of 2015, you will be spending the coming year exploring the world through literature, history, science, math, foreign language, and the arts. The first step of that exploration will take place this summer as you read 3 books and prepare for an in-class essay that you will write during the first week of school.

The first book, Salman Rushdie’s *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, is required, as the themes and ideas of the book will serve as a lens through which we will explore other literature. The remaining two books may be any books you choose from the reading list (on reverse).

The following two tasks are required and will be collected on the first day of school:

1. First, as you read, take detailed and specific notes of passages that strike you in any way—this will help you to write your in-class essay. Pay attention to your responses to the characters. Look for how the characters change over time, what makes them change, and ways in which the characters interpret their own lives. This can be done on loose-leaf paper or Post-It notes.

2. Then, once you finish reading, answer the following questions fully. Remember that although the characters in the different books undergo different experiences, their emotions and ideas may be similar.

✎ According to the characters in Haroun and the Sea of Stories and in your other two books, what is the importance of stories in our lives?

✎ What changes do the characters experience? Why?

✎ How do these books and their characters connect with one another?

✎ Imagine it’s possible for the different characters to meet. What could they learn from each other? What wisdom, drawn from their experiences, could they share?

✎ How do the novels connect with other books you’ve read, or with your experiences and emotions?

As you answer these questions, select short, relevant passages from each book that you would like to quote in your essay. For each question you should have at least two quotations (with page numbers) from each of the three novels. This may be neatly handwritten or typed.

This is a sample of what your answers should look like:

Question: According to the characters in *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* and in your other two books, what is the importance of stories in our lives?

Response: _____

Quote:	Page #:	Analysis/Response

Both your notes (part 1) and your answers to these questions (part 2) are due on the first day of school. The essay exam will be your first official assessment of the school year.

Have a healthy, happy, relaxing summer. Enjoy your reading and don’t hesitate to read additional books this summer—the more the better!

Sincerely,
The Staff of Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Eleanor Roosevelt High School 9th Grade Reading List
(Choose at least 2 books in addition to the required text)

REQUIRED READING: Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea Of Stories*

Adams, Douglas; *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
Alcott, Louisa May; *Little Women*
Allende, Isabel; *City of the Beasts*
Angelou, Maya; *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Atwood, Margaret; *Cat's Eye*
Barrie, J.M.; *Peter Pan*
Brown, Claude; *Manchild in the Promised Land*
Cisneros, Sandra; *Woman Hollering Creek*
Crow Dog, Mary; *Lakota Woman*
Danticat, Edwidge; *Krik? Krak!*
Douglass, Frederick; *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Doyle, Arthur Conan; *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
Haley, Alex; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
Hesse, Herman; *Siddhartha*
Hinton, S. E.; *The Outsiders*
Houston, Jeanne; *Farewell to Manzanar*
Jacobs, Harriet; *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
Keyes, Daniel; *Flowers for Algernon*
Kingsolver, Barbara; *Animal Dreams*
Knowles, John; *A Separate Peace*
Lee, Hellie; *Still Life with Rice*
Lowry, Lois; *The Giver*
Moody, Anne; *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
Ng, Fae Myenne; *Bone*
Potok, Chaim; *The Chosen*
Salinger, J.D.; *The Catcher in the Rye*
Santiago, Esmeralda; *When I Was Puerto Rican*
Steinbeck, John; *The Pearl*
Tan, Amy; *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
Tsukiyama, Gail; *The Samurai's Garden*