The Overlea High School English Department encourages students to become life-long readers and learners by asking them to read during non-instructional time. Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills as they transition into their senior year of high school.

We believe that students who read over the summer:
- Maintain or improve reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- Broaden their experience, knowledge and understanding of topics that are of personal interest.
- Experience personal and academic success by developing their literacy skills.
- Become lifelong readers by choosing a book and reading at their own pace.

Your summer assignment will consist of two parts:
- Read the text linked and listed below: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
- Then answer the following analysis questions.

For those students who participate, this assignment will be collected the first week in October of 2022. In addition to the assignment, students will have an opportunity to partake in literature circles, which will allow for deeper discussion of their chosen text.

Analysis Questions:

**Summarizing:**
What are the important events in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* that took place throughout the text? What makes them important? How do these events impact the characters? What changes in plot, character or theme did you notice in the reading? What are you thinking about as you read?

**Perplexing Analyses:**
What is the author’s purpose in creating ambiguity toward a setting, character or event? What role does the structure of the novel play in creating either complexity or ambiguity? What are the characters debating, struggling with? How are they quarrelling with themselves or the world around them? How are relationships defined in the book?

**Passage Analyses:** Choose five passages that you believe to be the most significant; answer the questions below using those specific passages.
Why is a particular section of the text important? What information is revealed that will inform the reader’s understanding of the whole novel? What new or deeper understanding can be gained from this passage? If you could, what question would you ask the author?
Summer Reading Text:

_I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings_ is a 1969 autobiography describing the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma.