



Hello future Boston Prep 12th grader! We are very excited to meet you and learn with you next school year.

1. **Over the summer, please read *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin.**

“Told through the eyes of Tish, a nineteen-year-old girl, in love with Fonny, a young sculptor who is the father of her child, Baldwin’s story mixes the sweet and the sad. Tish and Fonny have pledged to get married, but Fonny is falsely accused of a terrible crime and imprisoned. Their families set out to clear his name, and as they face an uncertain future, the young lovers experience a kaleidoscope of emotions—affection, despair, and hope. In a love story that evokes the blues, where passion and sadness are inevitably intertwined, Baldwin has created two characters so alive and profoundly realized that they are unforgettably ingrained in the American psyche.” (Penguin Random House)

2. **As you read, keep track of all of your quotes and notes (at least 6-8 for every 20 pages or so) using the Evidence Tracker template on the back or in your own notebook/document.** Use the discussion prompts below to guide your thinking! This will help you to prepare for our seminars and writing assignments during the first unit of 12th grade ELA (for either Literature & Composition or AP English Literature and Composition).

3. **We will discuss:**

- What are some beautiful, powerful, or impactful lines that stood out to you?
- What is something new or unexpected that you learned, realized, or felt?
- What connections did you make to history, current events, and/or real-world issues?
- What chapters, people, and images stood out the most to you? Why? How might these be connections to broader messages and deeper meaning?
- What is each author’s purpose in writing? What is the relationship between the power of their story and the prominence of social issues?
- What ideas or questions do you want to discuss with others?

Remember:

- **GIST** - What happens in the text? (characters, setting, conflict, plot, action, etc.) [AKA content and context]
- **CRAFT** - What literary and rhetorical devices does the author use to tell you the story and make it interesting? (imagery, characterization, word choice, symbols, simile/metaphor, repetition, dialogue, humor, foreshadowing, etc.)
- **MEANING** - What can we learn about life from this story? Make connections! (personal, social, cultural, themes, lessons, etc.)

TIP:* When you add your quotes, **make sure to cite correctly and take notes now so that you can reference them in class later!

<u>Quote</u>	<u>MLA Citation</u>	<u>Notes related to gist, craft, and meaning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How does this quote illuminate a theme / emotion in the story?● What literary device(s) does Bradbury use?● What impact do those literary devices have on your reading experience or your understanding of a theme?

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****TIP:*** To add more rows to a table, right-click on the bottom row of the table and click “Insert row below”.