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| **Sophomore Summer Reading: *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*** |

**DIRECTIONS:**

**1. Read the book, take notes, and answer ALL FOUR prompts below.**

* Each response must be one paragraph long.
* Each paragraph must include two quotes with quote introductions and internal citations.

**2. Turn in your assignment by doing BOTH of the following:**

* Bring your printed-out assignment to English class on your first day of school.
* Upload your assignment to turnitin.com as soon as your teacher gives you log-in information.

**3. Remind yourself about academic integrity policies:**

* Use no outside sources other than the assigned book. Do not look anything up online.
* Turnitin.com will compare your writing to: students in your class, other classes, past classes going back for many years, writing from other schools, and everything on the internet.

**PROMPTS:**

**1. Mother/Daughter:** Throughout the novel, Julia struggles for more independence. Her mother, however, has a different definition of how a young Mexican woman should act. How do Julia and her mother each think a young Mexican-American woman should be able to live her life? Do you agree? What situations in their personal backgrounds may have contributed to their perspectives?

**2. Race/Social Class:** Throughout the novel, Julia encounters prejudice against race and social class (income-level). Choose one of these instances and describe it. Next, compare and contrast this example with how you or someone you know has experienced racism or prejudice against social class.

**3. Suffering/Loss:** Throughout the novel, the characters deal with suffering and loss in a variety of ways. Choose one character and describe how he/she deals with loss. Next, compare and contrast the methods with how you or someone you know dealt with suffering or loss.

**4. Friendship:** Several characters in the novel have strong friendships. Choose two friendships *(four people total)*. What qualities connect them? Next, compare and contrast these friendships with some of your own. If the friend is from Cristo Rey, please do NOT use actual names or overly personal details

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| Sophomore Paragraph Rubric |
| Topic Sentence* Summarizes the argument •Directly answers given assignment
* Argument is not a fact.

Evidence (Quotes/Paraphrase)* Every argument claim is supported with textual evidence
* Every quote is relevant to topic sentence
* Every quote is introduced and provides context
* Quotes are appropriate in length

Analysis/Argument* Provides adequate explanation of the quote
* Connects quote to topic sentence and argument
* Adds new insight (non-repetitive) •Is not summary
 | **Grammar*** no runons/fragments •use simple, present-tense verbs
* spelling •capitalization •possessives •typos/carelessness

**Formal Academic Style*** only use 3rd person pronouns
* use transitions effectively within a body paragraph
* formal language •no contractions •no unclear pronouns

**MLA Formatting** * quotes and citations formatted correctly
* indents, spacing, heading, and layout
* works cited – book, translated, periodical, website
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| Content Grade11A+ 10A 9A- 8B+ 7B 6B- 5C+ 4C 3C- 2D+ 1D 0F | **Language Grade****11A+ 10A 9A- 8B+ 7B 6B- 5C+ 4C 3C- 2D+ 1D 0F** |
| TOTAL GRADE: A+(22) A(20) A-(18) B+(16) B(14) B-(12) C+(10) C(8) C-(6) D+(4) D(2) F(0) |

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| **Extra Credit!!! Extra Credit!!! Extra Credit!!! Extra Credit!!!** |

**1. Read any of the books below.**

* You can read as many as you like. The more you read, the more extra credit you get.
* The amount of extra credit will be determined by your sophomore English teacher.
* You may not choose a book you already did for freshman year independent reading, or that you read in grade school.

**2. Read the book and take careful notes.**

* If possible, do this on postit notes spread throughout the entire book.
* If you have to return the book to the library before school starts, then take notes on looseleaf.
* Your notes should include:
* summaries of important events, with page numbers
* character descriptions, with page numbers
* themes and issues, with page numbers
* literary techniques (descriptive language, imagery, similes, metaphors, etc.), with page numbers
* significant quotes and why they are significant, with page numbers
* how a passage makes you feel, think, wonder, or predict, with page numbers

**3. When school starts in August, make an appointment with your English teacher to discuss the books that you read. During this discussion, you will have to:**

* prove that you read the book
* discuss significant events and characters
* talk about the themes, issues, and overall message of the book
* point out specific quotes and discuss why they are significant
* analyze character development

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie** – Growing up on “the rez,” the Spokane Indian Reservation, Arnold Spirit, Jr., or Junior, was always different. At the urging of his first high school teacher, Junior transfers to the all-white school across town, so that he might one day really leave the reservation. This causes tension for Arnold at his new school, on the rez, and in nearly all of his relationships. As he grapples with the already immense challenge of teenagehood, he also finds himself in the in between of both worlds he inhabits.

***The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho** – Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein** – narrated by a dog! Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul, he has educated himself by watching television and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through.

***The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath** – an intensely emotional novel about a woman falling into the grip of insanity. Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, *The Bell Jar* is an extraordinary accomplishment and a haunting American classic.

***The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison** – The novel is set in 1941 and centers around the life of a young African-American girl named Pecola who grows up during the years following the Great Depression. Due to Pecola's harsh characteristics and dark skin, she is consistently regarded as "ugly". As a result, she prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful as all the blond, blue-eyed, white children in America. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison’s first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender.

***The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak** – This novel is narrated by the voice of Death itself, who is trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II. He tells the story of Liesel, a young German girl. After the death of Liesel's young brother, Liesel arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann. As the political situation in Germany deteriorates, her foster parents harbor a Jewish fist fighter named Max Vandenberg. Recognizing the power of writing and sharing the written word, Liesel not only begins to steal books that the Nazi party is looking to destroy, but also writes her own story, and shares the power of language with Max.

***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, by Junot Diaz** – The book’s title character is an overweight young Dominican living in New Jersey, who continuously falls in unrequited love with the many women who cross his path. Although he has a passion for reading and writing sci-fi and fantasy stories, he struggles with depression; as an overweight, self-described nerd—and an ardent believer in a family curse—Oscar is painfully aware he doesn’t fit the stereotypical image of a Dominican man, and consequently fears he will never find love or lose his virginity. Despite the unfortunate events that dominate his past and present, Oscar never loses his belief in the idea of love—an idea revealed to be a costly luxury for Oscar and, it seems, the rest of the Dominican people.

***A Cup of Water Under my Bed*, by Daisy Hernandez** – This book is Hernandez’s memoir about growing up in America in a Cuban-Colombian home. Hernandez explores cultural and sexual identity, language, religion, race, and abuse. Writing about her parents, particularly, Hernandez depicts the ways in which children of immigrants are under an enormous amount of pressure to live up to their parents' dreams, while remaining true to their roots. She also shows how their own personal hopes can be and are dashed by unexpected economic hardship. Her relationships with her parents and her tia are fraught, to say the least, and her essays reveal how she has come to terms with that reality.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, by Benjamin Alire Sáenz** – Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime.

***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*, by Kirsten Cronn-Mills** – Gabe, formerly Liz, finds an outlet for his newly proclaimed voice: the radio. With a confused and unsupportive family and harsh and bullying classmates, Gabe has his friends Paige and John, his new job at the record store, and his show, “Beautiful Music for Ugly Children.” It turns out that Gabe really has a knack for the radio, and his audience grows, including regular callers and a fan club called The Ugly Children Brigade. As his show gains fans and notoriety, Gabe’s transition from Liz becomes more complicated, more public, and less safe.

***Cat's Cradle*, by Kurt Vonnegut** – Dr. Felix Hoenikker, one of the founding 'fathers' of the atomic bomb, has left a deadly legacy to the world. For he's the inventor of 'ice-nine', a lethal chemical capable of freezing the entire planet. The search for its whereabouts leads to Hoenikker's three ecentric children, to a crazed dictator in the Caribbean, to madness. Felix Hoenikker's Death Wish comes true when his last, fatal gift to humankind brings about the end, that for all of us, is nigh...Kurt Vonnegut's tale of global destruction preys on our deepest fears of witnessing Armageddon and, worse still, surviving it...

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon** – Narrated by a young boy with Asperger syndrome (a developmental disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction), the novel is part mystery, part coming of age. Christopher knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. Although gifted with a logical brain, everyday interactions have little meaning. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed, and Christopher sets out to solve the murder.

***Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Also called *Blade Runner*)by Philip K. Dick** –It was January 2021, and Rick Deckard had a license to kill. Somewhere among the hordes of humans out there, lurked several rogue androids. Deckard's assignment--find them and then..."retire" them. Trouble was, the androids all looked exactly like humans, and they didn't want to be found!

***Dune*, by Frank Herbert** – Set in the far future amidst an interstellar empire, Dune tells the story of young Paul Atreides as he and his family accept control of the desert planet Arrakis, the only source of the 'spice' melange, the most important and valuable substance in the cosmos. The story explores the complex, multi-layered interactions of politics, religion, ecology, technology, and human emotion as the forces of the empire confront each other for control of Arrakis.

***Ender’s Game*, by Orson Scott Card** – Set in Earth's future, the novel presents an imperiled mankind after two conflicts with an alien species. Children, including the novel's protagonist, Ender Wiggin, are trained from a very young age through increasingly difficult games including some in zero gravity, where Ender's tactical genius is revealed.

***Everything Leads to You*, by Nina LaCour** – LaCour’s novel is the story of Emi, a teenager living in Los Angeles, working on movies, in the Art Department. She, along with her friend, Charlotte, are living in the apartment of Emi’s brother Toby, for the summer. Part mystery, part falling in love story, the novel follows Emi’s growing up in her friendships, work life, and love life.

***Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury** – Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden because they are blamed for all conflict and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Fire Department, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those rebels who defy society to preserve and read books. The classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, Fahrenheit 451 stands as a prophetic account of Western civilization’s enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity.

***Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel** – The protagonist is "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy who grew up working in his family’s zoo. He is fascinated by religion, and becomes Hindu, Muslim, and Christian all at the same time. Then he gets shipwrecked on a lifeboat with a Bengal  tiger named Richard Parker, and it’s hard to tell what’s truth and what’s fiction…or if there is such a thing as truth.

***Loose Woman: Poems*, bySandra Cisneros** – In this collection of poems, Cisneros examines the ways in which her Mexican culture both limit and free what kind of woman she is and can be. She writes about sexuality, love, family, and her *chingona* ways. As the title of the collection implies, Cisneros specifically looks at how she sees herself as sexual in a way that others would define as “loose,” but she finds empowering.

***Motorcycle Diaries*, by Ernesto Che Guevara** – With Alberto, his friend, and La Poderosa II, his motorcycle, Che Guevara travelled throughout South America, meeting with and learning from the people and places he encountered. Originally from Argentina, Guevara traverses Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela, and comes to new realizations about himself, his race, and his politics, which will come to influence the politics of other Latinx people and governments.

***Openly Straight*, by BillKonisberg** – Rafe is going to be a high school junior, and he has decided to switch schools. Instead of attending his high school in Boulder, CO, he has decided to transfer to an all-boys boarding school in New England, called Natick. In transferring schools, Rafe is looking for a fresh start, where people are interested in him for something other than being gay and out. He’s looking to restart and not feel pigeon-holed by this one identity, so he goes to Natick and does not share that he is gay. This gets particularly complicated when he develops feelings for a close friend.

***Reaching Out*, by Francisco Jimenez** – In this memoir, Francisco, or “Frankie,” tells the story of his time at Santa Clara University. Having grown up in a family of poor migrant workers, Frankie’s adjustment to Santa Clara is painful and confusing. He is challenged to juggle the guilt he feels for being away from home with the joy of living and learning at the Jesuit university. His roommate, Smokey, and many of his professors help him feel welcome at the school, while his ailing father expresses both pride and disappointment for the ways in which college changes Frankie. Set in El Paso, Texas in 1987, the novel follows two Mexican-American boys, their friendship, and their struggles with racial and ethnic identity, sexuality, and family relationships.

***Shoeless Joe*,  by W.P. Kinsella** – “If you build it, he will come.” These mysterious words inspire Ray Kinsella to create a cornfield baseball diamond in honor of his hero, Shoeless Joe Jackson. What follows is a rich, nostalgic look at baseball and a remarkable story about fathers and sons, love and family, and the inimitable joy of finding your way home.

***The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker** – Set in the deep American South between the wars, it is the tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage. But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her destiny. Gradually, Celie discovers the power of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting with those she loves.

***The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett** – Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from college. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Aibileen is a black maid, and she is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen’s best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody’s business, but she can’t mind her tongue, so she’s lost yet another job.

***The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros** – d Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous–it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Esperanza is determined to "say goodbye"to her impoverished Latino neighborhood by turning to a life on the streets. Major themes include her quest for a better life and the importance of her promise to come back for the ones she left behind.

***The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold** – This novel is the story of a family devastated by a gruesome murder, and it is narrated by the dead teenage daughter. From her vantage point in heaven, Susie Salmon describes how the murderer lured into an underground hiding place, where she was raped and killed. But Susie isn't ready to release her hold on life just yet, and she watches her family and friends as they struggle to cope with a reality in which she is no longer a part.

***The Martian*, by Andy Weir** – Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he’s sure he’ll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he’s alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive.

***The Queen of Water*, by Laura Resau and Maria Virginia Farinango** – In *The Queen of Water*, Resau and Farinango adapt the true story of Virginia’s life to fiction. Growing up in the Ecuadorean Andes, Virginia knows she is indigena and certainly not a light-skinned mestizo, and as such she and her family are relegated to second-class citizenship. This is all too clear when Virginia goes to work for Doctoria and Nino Carlitos, a wealthy mestizo couple in need of a live-in nanny, but Virginia ends up living like a slave. She manages to rebel by learning to read and write and dressing like a mestizo, but she starts to lose her native Quichua language and memories of her home and family.

***The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd** – Set in South Carolina in 1964, it the story of Lily Owens, who has a blurred memory of killing her mother. When Lily's black housekeeper insults three of the deepest racists in town, they escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by a trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to bees, honey, and the Black Madonna.

***The Things They Carried*, by Tim O’Brien** – A collection of linked stories about a platoon of American soldiers fighting on the ground in the Vietnam War. Neither a novel nor a short story collection, it is an arc of fictional episodes, taking place in the childhoods of its characters, in the jungles of Vietnam and back home in America two decades later. O’Brien’s third book about the war, it is based upon his experiences as a soldier in the 23rd Infantry Division.

***We came all the way from Cuba so you could dress like this?*** **by Achy Obejas** – In this collection of short stories, Obejas illustrates the intersectionality of immigration, latinx culture, and homosexuality, as well as the unique challenges and insights these identities produce. Writing about AIDS, sex, language, and self-discovery, Obejas presents a variety of characters, all coming to terms with the way they love, live, and die.

***What Can(t) Wait*, by Ashley HopePerez** – Marisa is a high school senior with dreams of going to college and becoming an engineer; however, the people in her life are not on board. Her parents expect her to marry and have a family, like her sister Cecilia did, but Marisa only sees how unhappy Ceci is and how unhealthy her marriage is, much like her parents’. Brenda, Marisa’s best friend, wants Marisa to stay local, so that they do not have to part, but UT Austin is a much more challenging school and could help Marisa reach her goals.

***What Elephants Know***, by Eric Dinerstein – Teenaged Nandu encounters danger and beauty in Nepal, where he lives and works at a royal elephant stable. When thieves and an angry king threaten the peace at the elephant stable, Nandu must devise a clever plan to help save them. This book will especially appeal to readers interested in different cultures, nature and the politics of a struggling nation.

***Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, by John Green and David Levithan** – There are two different boys, both named Will Grayson, and both living in the Chicago suburbs.When reading the odd-numbered chapters, the reader sees high school through the eyes of a heterosexual student, Will Grayson 1, who mostly believes in shutting up. When reading the even-numbered chapters, the reader sees high school through the eyes of a homosexual teenager, as Will Grayson 2. It was the first LGBT-themed young adult novel to make *The New York Times* best-seller list.

*(Compiled from individual entries in Goodreads, Sparknotes, and other literature-based websites and resources.)*