

10th Grade Ethnic Studies Summer 2026 Reading Assignment

This summer, you will read and annotate a collection of powerful poems by BIPOC poets that explore identity, race, systems of power, resistance, and social change. These poems will help prepare you for our Ethnic Studies course by asking you to think critically about:

- Who has power?
- How do institutions shape our lives?
- How do people resist injustice?
- What does liberation look like?
- How can young people create change?

Your goal is not just to “read poetry,” but to think deeply, reflect personally, and come prepared to discuss important issues when school begins.

Annotation Requirements for EACH poem—You can print it out yourself or go to F-203 or E-212 to pick up a packet.

Annotate & highlight the following:

- identity
- race
- ethnicity
- power
- institutions
- oppression
- resistance
- liberation
- hope
- change

Circle:

- repetition
- imagery
- symbolism
- metaphor
- tone shifts
- strong diction

Margin Notes: Write at least 3 thoughtful annotations per poem—Use sentence frames like:

- This line suggests...
- The poet is emphasizing...
- This connects to power because...
- This reflects oppression because...
- This shows resistance when...
- This reminds me of...

The Poems

1. “Theme for English B” — Langston Hughes
2. “Legal Alien” — Pat Mora
3. “Incident” — Countee Cullen
4. “Let America Be America Again” — Langston Hughes
5. “Bullet Points” — Jericho Brown
6. “THE TYPE” — Sarah Kay
7. “Caged Bird” — Maya Angelou
8. “Dinosaurs in the Hood” — Danez Smith
9. “For Everyone” — Jason Reynolds
10. “Victory” — Sherman Alexie

11. “B (If I should have a daughter)” — Sarah Kay
12. “Where I live your town becomes my town becomes our town” — Timoteo Perez

First Week of School Assessment–Be prepared for:

- Socratic Seminar
- In-class timed writing
- Group discussion
- Gallery walk presentation

Academic Integrity Reminder

- Your reflections must be YOUR thinking.
- Do not use AI summaries, copied websites, or outside analysis.
- Your voice matters most.
- Come ready to think deeply.
- Come ready to speak honestly.
- Come ready to challenge the world.
- Welcome to Ethnic Studies.