

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Summer Reading Assignment

For Ms. Bernard, Ms. Michael, and Ms. Strauss

1. Read A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris. In particular, pay close attention to the narrative structure and the point of view expressed in each narrative. There are many themes in the novel, including belonging, the many faces of religion, coming of age, and family secrets. Please also think about what constitutes a hero.

A. You will be asked to write about this novel at the beginning of the class, whether your class is during the first or second semester. Prepare by taking notes as you read.

B. You should consider learning about the author. Go on line and find out about his life history.

2. Read a selection of poems from the list below. Focus on six or more of one specific poet's poems. Bring two to class on the first day and be prepared to discuss them in terms of how the poet plays with language to make meaning, and in terms of your own thoughts and feelings about each poem. Therefore, pick poems that you enjoy and that inspire you.

Suggested list:

Gabriella Mistral  
Emily Dickinson  
Anne Sexton  
Sylvia Plath  
Anna Akhmatova  
Naomi Shihab Nye  
Ellen Dore Watson  
Sandra Cisneros  
Nikki Giovanni  
Mary Oliver  
Lucille Clifton  
Pablo Neruda  
Martin Espada  
Billy Collins  
William Wordsworth  
ee cummings  
Langston Hughes  
Alexander Pushkin  
Yevgeny Yvetushenko  
Sterling A. Brown