

HISP@CKM  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2021  
U.S. Government AP / Literature AP

**In your government reading**, Michelle Alexander introduces readers to the phenomenon of mass incarceration in the United States and challenges readers to view the crisis as “the most pressing racial justice issue of our time.” Young people need to have a role in national discussions about justice. Participating in these discussions requires that students learn to talk about the relevant issues in meaningful and constructive ways. With that in mind, you are to read *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander. She makes compelling and sometimes controversial claims about the justice system. The assignment is to annotate your book with the following assertions she makes in mind:

- The U.S. justice system plays a role in creating and maintaining a racial hierarchy.
- Changes taking place in community of color made them particularly vulnerable to the War on Drugs.
- There are myths and assumptions the general public believes about the criminal justice system.
- The Fourth Amendment has been weakened.
- There are connections between the Old Jim Crow and the New Jim Crow.
- Civil Rights organizations have not responded properly or adequately to the New Jim Crow and mass incarceration.
- Colorblindness is part of the problem.
- There are obstacles to justice being applied equally and fairly in the U.S.

Bring your annotated books to turn in the first day of school. The second day of school you will use your book for a seminar discussion around these claims. The first week of school you will respond to prompt in a timed write in class. We want you to get beyond the emotional response to the book so there can be meaningful, academic discussion of her arguments. See you in September! If you have urgent questions during the summer, email Mrs. Wong at [ellen-wong@scusd.edu](mailto:ellen-wong@scusd.edu)

**For literature**, you are required to read and annotate: *Dubliners* by James Joyce. There will be a test on *The Dubliners* during the first week of the fall term.

You must also read one selection from either of the lists on the back (Nature of Man and Gender/Race Identity).

For each book (*Dubliners* and the choice book), you will be annotating the novel as you read. If you own the book, you may write directly on the page. If you don't own the book, or if you prefer, you may use post-it notes. Keep in mind, if you are writing directly in the book, everything that you underline must have a comment in the margin to explain why it is underlined; and if you are using post-it notes, every post-it note must be written on, explaining the importance of the passage you are marking. (See attached example for a model of how to annotate effectively). You must bring both annotated novels to the first day of class. They will be collected and graded.

You will also be required to write an essay in class on the choice novel during the first week of school.

Questions about the assignment? Please feel free to email Mr. Perry at [brian-perry@scusd.edu](mailto:brian-perry@scusd.edu) or Mr. Maxwell at [jbmaxwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbmaxwell@sbcglobal.net)

