

**English 1 & Project Connect English
Summer Reading Assignment
2022**

Discovering Wes Moore by Wes Moore

ISBN: 9780385741682

Available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble

Students are responsible for obtaining the book. If this is a problem, please email Ms. Scott at lscott@bhpsnj.org, prior to June 14th, and she will arrange for you to borrow a copy.

Assignment:

Read the memoir and take notes on the following subjects:

- Choices and consequences – noting both positive and negative outcomes
- The influence of a person’s surroundings – noting setting, friends, family, time-period
- Identity – noting how each boy gains an identity, how they are classified in society, in different circumstances

When you return to school in September, you will participate in discussions and class assignments related to the memoir and there will be a written assessment. In all assignments, you will be allowed to use your notes to guide your learning.

Reading some of the following texts, in addition to *Discovering Wes Moore*, would be beneficial.

All You Can Ever Know by Nicole Chung. “What does it mean to lose your roots—within your culture, within your family—and what happens when you find them? Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From early childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hopes of giving her a better life; that forever feeling slightly out of place was simply her fate as a transracial adoptee. But as she grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn’t see, finding her identity as an Asian American and a writer, becoming ever more curious about where she came from—she wondered if the story she’d been told was the whole truth.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30297153-all-you-can-ever-know>

The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow. “ Sydney Taylor Award-winning novel *Berlin Boxing*

Club is loosely inspired by the true story of boxer Max Schmeling's experiences following Kristallnacht. Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew. But the bullies at his school in Nazi-era Berlin, don't care that Karl has never been in a synagogue or that his family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by attacks on a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth. So when Max Schmeling, champion boxer and German national hero, makes a deal with Karl's father to give Karl boxing lessons, A skilled cartoonist, Karl has never had an interest in boxing, but now it seems like the perfect chance to reinvent himself. But when Nazi violence against Jews escalates, Karl must take on a new role: protector of his family. And as Max's fame forces him to associate with Hitler and other Nazi elites, Karl begins to wonder where his hero's sympathies truly lie. Can Karl balance his dream of boxing greatness with his obligation to keep his family out of harm's way?"

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9266762-the-berlin-boxing-club?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=pm2pgWGDdm&rank=

Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah. "The memoir of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle."

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29780253-born-a-crime>

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas. "In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on *Bowling for Dollars* and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46349.Funny_in_Farsi?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=DEjGoiXrRt&rank=1

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou “Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou’s debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.”

(<https://www.amazon.com/Know-Why-Caged-Bird-Sings/dp/0345514408>.)

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman? By Eleanor Updale When a petty thief falls through a glass roof while fleeing from the police, it should have been the death of him. Instead, it marks the beginning of a whole new life. Soon he has become the most successful -- and elusive -- burglar in Victorian London, plotting daring raids and using London's new sewer system to escape. He adopts a dual existence to fit his new lifestyle, taking on the roles of a respectable, wealthy gentleman named Montmorency and his corrupt servant, Scarper.

(<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/638603.Montmorency>.)

On the Devil’s Court by Carl Deuker “What would you give to be your school's superstar? After reading Dr. Faustus, Joe considers the merits of selling his soul to the devil. Suddenly, he finds himself changing from a lousy basketball player and a C student to the star athlete he always dreamed he could be. Even though he isn't sure if he actually made a deal with the devil, he can't help but enjoy the benefits that come with his newfound abilities. But is achieving his dreams worth what he may have given up?”

(<https://www.amazon.com/Devils-Court-Carl-Deuker/dp/031606727X>.)

Orchards by Holly Thompson “After a classmate commits suicide, Kana Goldberg—a half-Japanese, half-Jewish American—wonders who is responsible. She and her cliquey friends said some thoughtless things to the girl. Hoping that Kana will reflect on her behavior, her parents pack her off to her mother's ancestral home in Japan for the summer. There Kana spends hours under the hot sun tending to her family's *mikan* orange groves.”

(<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/orchards-holly-thompson/1100290973>.)

Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall “As the oldest of eight siblings, Lupita is used to taking the lead-and staying busy behind the scenes to help keep everyone together. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit Mexican American family.”

(<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/under-the-mesquite-guadalupe-garcia-mccall/1100400441>.)

When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago “Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the barrio to Brooklyn, from translating for her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard.”

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25419.When_I_Was_Puerto_Rican.)