

“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” – Joyce Carol Oates

Valwood Summer Study 2023-234

AP Literature and Composition

Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.

1. Read *Behold the Dreamers* (2016) by Imbolo Mbue

2. Annotate the book as you read.

Mark significant passages with post-its (if it’s borrowed) or with margin notes (if you own it).

3. Keep a journal.

Each time you read a portion of the novel, note the date and time. Write a few sentences about what was revealed in the plot and what you learned about each character in that day’s reading. Turn in your journal on the first day of school.

4. Write a 250-word reflection.

Include a discussion of specific events in the novel that provoked a notable response. What did you love? What did you hate? What caught your attention? Turn in your reflection on the first day of school.

5. When school begins, be prepared to

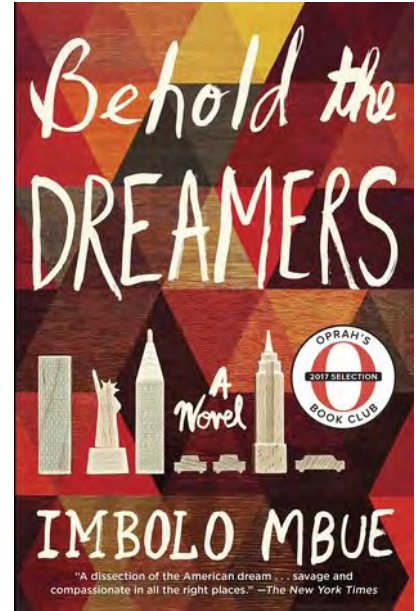
- cite specific lines to support what you say or write about the book.
- analyze how Mbue conveys the family’s complex responses to their quandary.
- learn how the author uses literary elements and techniques for a specific purpose. (Google “literary elements and techniques” if you need more information.)
- consider the meaning of the work as a whole.

6. Read another book of literary merit.

I recommend reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and going to see the movie to be released on July 15, 2022. If you want more recommendations, contact dray@valwood.org.

7. Listen to at least one short episode of [Poetry Unbound](#), a readily available podcast. (One of my favorites is “Praise the Rain.”) Pádraig Ó Tuama can show you how to analyze poetry!

8. Know what’s going on in the world. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news in fields that interest you: science, history, math, economics, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.



Keep learning as you enjoy your summer break!