

# BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

## BSA Summer Reading 2016-2017

As we close out the school year and look forward to the upcoming one, we are excited to announce that we will be reading texts over the summer that align with our year-long interdisciplinary project centered on the cultural life and artistic bounty of the African continent. Students are being asked to read one of the texts below and complete one of the two activities that follow.

Students are encouraged to borrow from a local library or order/purchase at a local bookstore or online. Our suggestion is that you investigate the titles and see what most interests you/your child and then tackle the text!

Thanks for your help and support and we try and prepare all of our students for what will surely be an excellent, varied, and rich study of the African continent for 2016-17.

### **Fiction (novels and short story collections):**

*Nervous Conditions*, by Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe)

*So Long a Letter*, by Mariama Ba (Senegal)

*Zoo City*, by Lauren Beukes (South Africa)

*The Hairdresser of Harare*, by Tendai Huchu (Zimbabwe)

*Purple Hibiscus*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria)

*Half of a Yellow Sun*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria)

*Dust*, by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor (Kenya)

### **Drama:**

*The Lion and the Jewel*, by Wole Soyinka (Nigeria)

*The Fate of a Cockroach*, by Tawfik Al Hakim (Egypt)

*The Blood Knot*, by Athol Fugard (South Africa)

### **Non-fiction and memoir:**

*There Was a Country*, by Chinua Achebe (Nigeria)

*A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah (Sierra Leone)

*The Zanzibar Chest*, by Aiden Hartley (Kenya)

*Diaries of an Unfinished Revolution*, Ed. by Matthew Cassel, Layla Al-Zubaidi, and Nemonie Craven Roderick (about Arab Spring, including Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria)

*This Child Will Be Great*, by Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia)

## Project Descriptions

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*\*\*Because of the nature of the full year interdisciplinary festival surrounding the African continent next year (16-17), please expect that you will not only be completing this assignment, but you will also be grouped with people who also read similar texts to create larger presentations/projects based on the reading and work you complete.*

## **I. Letter to the Author:**

Write a letter to the author (at least 500 words) to the author of your chosen book. Briefly introduce yourself and give your overall impression of the book in your introductory paragraph. Limit this part to one paragraph maximum.

In the subsequent paragraphs, please address the following questions:

1. What were some larger cultural themes that stood out to you regarding life on the African continent as presented in the book? (For example-etiquette, language, daily customs, religion, food, etc)
2. Based on what you read, what seems/seemed *similar* about life on the African continent and your own life here in Maryland?
3. Based on what you read, what seems/seemed *different* about life on the African continent and your own life here in Maryland?

Finally, add a closing. This letter may be typed or handwritten. The evaluation will be based on care in writing, use of the text to support your points and evidence of careful reading.

## **II. Double-Entry Journal**

Students read their selected text and make a minimum of 20 journal entries. Students can complete and submit this on paper using their own handwriting, You can create this by folding a piece of paper in half lengthwise.

1. The left side of the column should have a quote or something meaningful that resonates with the reader.
2. The right side of the column should have the student reaction to the passage. This could include personal responses, comments, questions, connections, or analyses.

For a template of a double-entry journal, please go to:

[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson\\_images/lesson228/double.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson228/double.pdf)