Dear Ninth Grade English Honors Student:

We would like to wish you a wonderful, productive summer as you prepare for your first year at White Plains High School. As an incoming English 9 Honors student, your summer reading requirement is to read two books over the summer: one from the list below and The Distance Between Us: A Memoir by Reyna Grande (please be sure to read the original version, not the young readers’ edition). In September, you will be asked to demonstrate and apply your knowledge of both books. You will be expected to recall specific details from both texts.

- **When I Was Puerto Rican**, by Esmeralda Santiago, is a memoir in which Santiago recounts her tumultuous childhood in rural Puerto Rico and her tremendous journey adapting to life in New York City.

- **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**, by Ishmael Beah, is his riveting account of becoming a soldier at age 13 in Sierra Leone’s civil war and the dramatic journey that followed.

- **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**, by Maya Angelou, is the story of Angelou’s painful childhood growing up in the South during the 1930s. It tells the story of her abandonment and rejection, and how, years later, she finally allows herself to be free instead of imprisoned.

We have high expectations for a successful year ahead, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Monique Adams
Lorraine Isaac
Cheryl Rosenka