

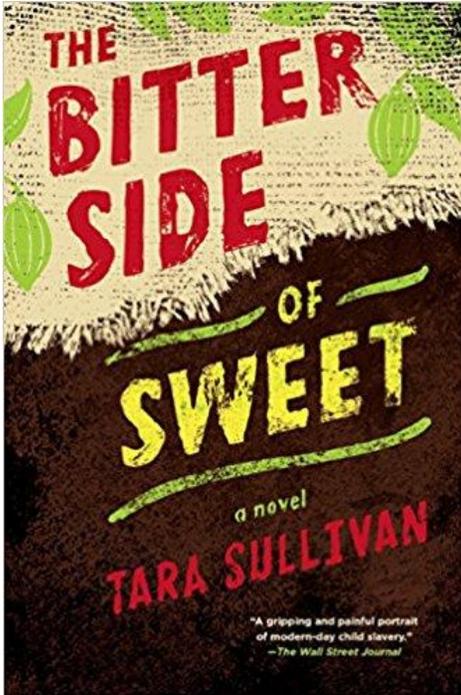
Freshman Honors English: Summer Reading 2018-2019

Greetings from the Teaching Team:

Welcome to Freshman Honors English! Your teachers are excited to meet you and help you get off to a great start at Grayslake Central High School. We hope you enjoy the text we have selected for summer reading; we also hope that you find some time to read for pleasure this summer as well!

All students enrolled in Freshman Honors English for the 2018-2019 school year are required to read the following text:

Summer Reading Text: *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan



Two young boys must escape a life of slavery in modern-day Ivory Coast. Fifteen-year-old Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. This number is very important. The higher the number the safer they are because the bosses won't beat them. The higher the number the closer they are to paying off their debt and returning home to Baba and Auntie. Maybe. The problem is Amadou doesn't know how much he and Seydou owe, and the bosses won't tell him. The boys only wanted to make some money during the dry season to help their impoverished family. Instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast; they spend day after day living on little food and harvesting beans in the hot sun—dangerous, backbreaking work. With no hope of escape, all they can do is try their best to stay alive—until Khadija comes into their lives.

She's the first girl who's ever come to camp, and she's a wild thing. She fights bravely every day, attempting escape again and again, reminding Amadou what it means to be free. But finally, the bosses break her, and what happens next to the brother he has always tried to protect almost breaks Amadou. The old impulse to run is suddenly awakened. The three band together as family and try just once more to escape. (From GoodReads.com)

Expectations

Because you will all be reading the same book this summer, you should consider this our first novel of the year; the first few weeks of the year will serve as an introduction to the course themes and objectives, as well as our expectations for you as students. **We expect you to read this book actively and critically.** There will be an assessment over the book sometime during the first week of school.

There is no written assignment for you to complete during the summer! Feel free to e-mail Ms. Ritter (mr Ritter@d127.org) or Mrs. Miller (kmiller@d127.org) over the summer with any questions regarding the novel.