

Read! Write! Explore!

Culture & Identity



Summer 2015

Suggested Schedule

- June Read about Culture & Identity. Apply your knowledge to a book off of the reading list.
- July Consider Culture & Identity in a book of your own choice.
- August Write about your own culture and how it helps shape your identity.



What to Expect

Hi, my name is Nevada Benton and I teach Language & Literature. I am looking forward to meeting you in the fall! Should you have questions about the summer learning, please email me at nevada.benton@mandelainternationalschool.us. For general information, including course overviews, see my website at <https://sites.google.com/a/mandelainternationalschool.us/nevada-benton/>.

Mandela International Magnet School students are expected to read a minimum of two works of literature, either in Spanish or in English, over the course of the summer. In addition, two pieces of writing, will be required, one original work discussing your culture and another exploring culture and identity in one of the above mentioned works of literature. During the first week of school, students will gather in small groups to discuss what was read and written.

Enduring Understandings

We learn about human nature through the study of literature, which often reflects the times, place and culture where the artist lives. We all have a voice because of what we write, when we write it and who reads it. Reading and writing are life-long skills that are part of our daily lives.



What is culture?

The way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs.

Culture is studied by looking at the way of life of groups of people with similar beliefs and customs. The elements considered include language, religion, daily life, history, art, government and the economy.

Think of your experience in the United States. What languages are spoken daily in your community? What is the dominant faith? What does a

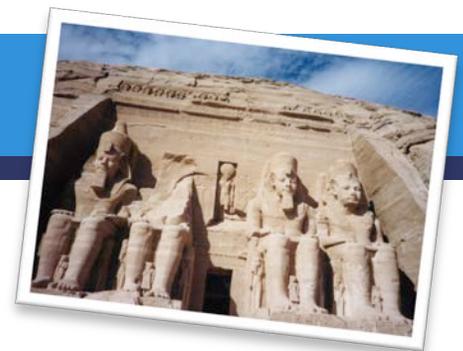
person's daily life look like morning, noon and night? What aspects of history affect your daily experience? What is the role of art in your community? What government and economic system do you live under? The answers to these questions comprise the foundation of your culture.

Take a deeper look and consider the following questions: Is it possible for someone to belong to several cultural groups? Do you have to be born into a cultural group to understand the culture? How is cultural identity taught to people (e.g., family celebrations)?

What is identity?

Identity answers the question, what makes you unique? What makes you who you are? Identity is the individual person's way of weaving together cultures, what is important to them, their past, their dreams for the future, forming their own unique personality.

People in a culture group are not all the same. They each have a unique sense of self, formed from different cultural contexts such as school, church, neighborhood, sports teams and other recreational groups.



Consider what culture groups you belong to. What is important to you? How do you like to spend your time? What makes you who you are?



Assignments

Read! Write!

Reader's Response Questions

Respond to the following questions in writing for one work of literature, either from the assigned book list, or one of your own choosing. Be prepared to discuss the questions for both books read.

Book title:

Author:

Brief summary of the plot:

Main characters:

Elements of culture: Describe the language spoken by the characters, religion, what their daily life is like, how history affects the characters, elements of art, describe the government and economy.

Identity: Choose a character and discuss what makes them who they are. What is important to the character? What makes him/her unique?

Opinion: Would you recommend

the book to a friend? Why or why not?

Write About Your Own Culture

Write a one to three page personal narrative addressing the following writing prompt: Describe your culture and identity. Address a minimum of two elements of culture. What three words would you use to describe yourself? Why? How do you like to spend your time? How does this help shape who you are as a person?

Explore! Extension Activities

Optional Activities

These activities are NOT required and are offered to enrich your summer experience. There will be an opportunity to share what you have learned in small groups the first week of school.

1. Revisit! Consider culture and identity in books you have already read.
2. Read more! Challenge yourself to read more than two books.
3. Write! Keep a journal and write 5 minutes a day, about anything. Describe your surroundings, your thoughts, what happened during your day, or use writing prompts for inspiration.
4. Create! Make a visual representation to include with your personal narrative on culture and identity. A collage, an iMovie, a sketch, painting, etc.



The books are listed from easiest to most challenging.

For copies, check your local library or bookstore,
Booksource.com, Scholastic.com or Amazon.com



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

Directions

1. Choose a book you would like to read.
2. Look at a page in the middle.
3. Put one finger down for every word you can't read or don't understand.
4. If you have five fingers down, you may need to try a book earlier on the list.
5. If you have fewer than five fingers down, the book is "just right"!
6. Read it!



"Be awesome! Be a book nut!"
 – Dr. Seuss

Book Title and Author	Spanish Edition
<u>Bad Island</u> (Graphic Novel) Doug TenNapel	
<u>The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel</u> (Percy Jackson and the Olympians) Rick Riordan	<u>Percy Jackson y los dioses del Olimpo: El ladrón del rayo-novela grafica</u> Rick Riordan
<u>Nelson Mandela: The Authorized Comic Book</u> The Nelson Mandela Foundation (Author), Umlando Wezithombe (Illustrator)	<u>Nelson Mandela: El comic autorizado</u> The Nelson Mandela Foundation, Umlando Wezithombe and Nelson Mandela
<u>To Build a Fire</u> Jack London	<u>Encender Un Fuego</u> Jack London
<u>Charlie's Raven</u> Jean Craighead George	
<u>The Book Thief</u> Markus Zusak	<u>La Ladrona De Libros</u> Markus Zusak
<u>The Lightning Thief</u> (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book #1) Rick Riordan	<u>El Ladron Del Rayo</u> Rick Riordan
<u>The Giver</u> Lois Lowry	<u>El Dador</u> Lois Lowry
<u>Esperanza Rising</u> Pam Munoz Ryan	<u>Esperanza Renace</u> Pam Muñoz Ryan
<u>Sign of the Beaver</u> Elizabeth George Speare	<u>El Signo del Castor</u> Elizabeth George Speare
<u>Maniac Magee</u> Jerry Spinelli	
<u>Julie of the Wolves</u> Jean Craighead George	<u>Julie Y Los Lobos</u> Jean Craighead George
<u>The House on Mango Street</u> Sandra Cisneros	<u>La Casa En Mango Street</u> Sandra Cisneros
<u>Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter</u> Adeline Yen Mah	
<u>Nelson Mandela: "No Easy Walk to Freedom"</u> Barry Denenberg	
<u>Pride and Prejudice</u> Jane Austen	<u>Orgullo Y Prejuicio</u> Jane Austen
<u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> William Shakespeare	<u>Sueno de Una Noche de Verano</u> William Shakespeare