

**Thornton Academy English Department**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2019**  
**For Incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-Grade Honors English Classes**

**Note: Summer reading is mandatory for honors students.**

*Each teacher will determine August and September's writing, activities, and assessments.*

Written work will be completed after school begins.

**All students are required to read *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell (Vintage).**

“In *Outliers*, Gladwell (*The Tipping Point*) once again proves masterful in a genre he essentially pioneered—the book that illuminates secret patterns behind everyday phenomena. His gift for spotting an intriguing mystery, luring the reader in, then gradually revealing his lessons in lucid prose, is on vivid display. [...] Through case studies ranging from Canadian junior hockey champions to the robber barons of the Gilded Age, from Asian math whizzes to software entrepreneurs to the rise of his own family in Jamaica, Gladwell tears down the myth of individual merit to explore how culture, circumstance, timing, birth and luck account for success—and how historical legacies can hold others back despite ample individual gifts. Even as we know how many of these stories end, Gladwell restores the suspense and serendipity to these narratives that make them fresh and surprising.” (Leslie Chang, *Publishers' Weekly*)

Please purchase *Outliers* (paperback version), or have it on long-term loan **since you will need the book** in order to complete assignments. E-book/tablet versions are also acceptable.

**DIRECTIONS:** While written work will be completed in the fall, we ask that **you mark important or noteworthy passages with post-it notes, strips of paper, or highlighter. If you use an E-book version, please highlight and SAVE marked passages.**

**Six to eight passages per book is a guideline, but you may have more.** An important passage could illustrate a central idea or theme explored in the book. Examples of powerful or interesting writing also count as “noteworthy” passages.

*Enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you at Thornton in August!*

Mr. Rackmales and Mrs. Browne