

Greetings, Parents and Guardians of 11th and 12th grade English III and IV Students!

My name is Sara Fliehman Levinstein, and I am the English III (11th Grade) and IV (12th grade) teacher here at Ogden High School. I am offering up two opportunities to get involved in our class!

Opportunity #1: This week, we are starting to read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (11th Grade) and *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler (12th Grade). Do you want to read along with your student? I am happy to check you out a book if you are interested (or you can purchase your own!). We would love for you to participate in our classroom discussions! I will also host two evening book club nights (one for each grade level), where we can all discuss the books at greater length, together--parents, teachers, and students--and enjoy some pizza (on me!).

Opportunity #2: The summative assessment for both grade levels will consist of students giving a five minute oral commentary that analyzes how the literary elements in the novel we are reading connect to global issues and the meaning of the text as a whole. This commentary will be followed by a three minute question and answer session between audience members and the student. If you would like to help us grade these oral commentaries, provide feedback to the students, and participate in our class, we would love to have you!

Please see below for descriptions of the books from Amazon, as well as a link to purchase them. **Email me back at slevinstein@cps.edu if you are interested in any of the above opportunities!** I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Sara A. Fliehman Levinstein, M.S., NBCT
English Teacher



[The Bluest Eye](#) by Toni Morrison: Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison's virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.



[Parable of the Sower](#) by Octavia Butler: When global climate change and economic crises lead to social chaos in the early 2020s, California becomes full of dangers, from pervasive water shortage to masses of vagabonds who will do anything to live to see another day. Fifteen-year-old Lauren Olamina lives inside a gated community with her preacher father, family, and neighbors, sheltered from the surrounding anarchy. In a society where any vulnerability is a risk, she suffers from hyperempathy, a debilitating sensitivity to others' emotions. Precocious and clear-eyed, Lauren must make her voice heard in order to protect her loved ones from the imminent disasters her small community stubbornly ignores. But what begins as a fight for survival soon leads to something much more: the birth of a new faith ... and a startling vision of human destiny.