



In anticipation of the 2019-2020 school year, each grade level will be assigned a single selection as mandatory summer reading. This approach to the summer reading program is intended not only to encourage independent reading, but also to enrich the student's experience in a specific discipline. As first term begins in the fall, the teachers will be incorporating the summer reading selection into their courses, where students can expect to further discuss and ultimately be assessed regarding their understanding of the work. To clarify, there will be no summer reading "form," as there has been in previous years. Students will be held accountable for the mandatory summer reading through in-class assessment.

This work has been translated into many languages; students are encouraged to read the work in their native languages.

Senior Summer Reading Selection

All incoming seniors are required to read *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861) by Linda Brent. Students should expect an objective test on this work within the first two weeks of school, the grade for which will be recorded in each student's English course.

Summary

This autobiography is the most widely-read female antebellum slave narrative. In recounting her life experiences before she was freed, Harriet Jacobs offered her contemporary readers a startlingly realistic portrayal of her history while a slave. Throughout her narrative, Jacobs focuses on the importance of family and motherhood.

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns

The slave narrative has distinct connections to the "rights of girls and women in especially repressive societies."

Connection to the senior English curriculum

Students will continue to explore the ways in which women are marginalized in multiple settings through the literature they study in the CP, SL-IB, and HL-IB World Literature courses.