## Summer 2023 Reading Assignments for American Literature Students
(College Prep & Honors)

American Literature students will complete two tasks in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. We will discuss the summative (culminating) assessment during the first week of classes. Students may purchase or borrow a copy of their fiction selection from the public library or access it digitally. Most are available as PDFs online. In addition, students may access their chosen documentary, docuseries, or podcast where available.

**Task #1: Select ONE of the works of FICTION and read carefully:**
- *Bodega Dreams** (Ernesto Quiñonez)
- *Fences* (August Wilson)
- *American Born Chinese (Gene Luen Yang)*
- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents (Julia Alvarez)*

*Important Note: Although they are not celebrated, this text features both offensive language and drug usage by one or more characters; therefore, this text may be triggering for some.*

**Task #2: Select ONE documentary, docuseries, or podcast according to your interest (e.g. true crime, entertainment, health & medicine, sports) and view or listen carefully to it in its entirety (i.e. full season, not just one episode).**

**Make notes in response to the following questions:**
1. What is the title of the text, and what year was it released? Describe what the documentary, docuseries, or podcast is about and what it attempts to achieve or argue.
2. Describe the progression or structure of the documentary, docuseries, or podcast: how does it begin? what stages does it pass through? how does it conclude?
3. List six facts you learned from watching or listening. How do those facts relate to its premise or purpose? (It may help to look back at your notes for the first question.)
4. How are the persuasive appeals in play - logos, pathos, and ethos? How are you impacted by those appeals as the viewer or listener?
5. Did you have any impressions or opinions about the topic that were reinforced or challenged by the documentary, docuseries, or podcast? Explain.