

**Cab Calloway School of the Arts**  
**English Summer Reading: 12 Honors and College Preparatory**

**NOVEL:** *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

**ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:** Characters in books allow us to examine the lives of others who face challenges in areas which we may not have any experience or understanding. Although empathy can be modeled, we often struggle with empathy for others unlike ourselves.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

**Style-** How does the narrative structure of the text impact the development of the story and the reader's understanding of characters? How does the title of the story help support an overall message of the novel?

**Meaning and Message –** How do moments in our life define us? How do “defining moments” teach us who we really are? How can we learn from the experiences and defining moments of others?

**OBJECTIVES:**

- to demonstrate an overall understanding of the summer reading novel
- to explore the author's purpose in writing the text
- to respond to literary text by making inferences about content, events, characters, and author's decisions
- to connect personal experiences to those of literary characters
- to produce an insightful piece of creative writing, art, or video which accurately traces an issue of social justice (or injustice) presented in the novel
- to collaboratively discuss and present an analysis of the narrative forms applied throughout the text
- to orally communicate ideas and opinions while listening open mindedly to the opinions of others

**ANNOTATIONS:**

Students will be working with the novels the first two weeks of class and should have annotated copies prepared. Annotations can be written on the page(s) or on post-its attached to the page(s); however, regardless of the annotation method, it is critical that students “mark-up” their texts as all assessments surrounding the novel will require the use of direct text.

Annotations should address the Essential Questions and Objectives outlined above. Annotations should appear throughout the entire text but do not need to be equally elaborated at all points (i.e. some scenes may require copious annotations while others may require little or none).

Feel free to annotate your emotional reactions to scenes as well (expressions such as: what?, seriously?, yes!, I can't even!, no!, etc.)

Enjoy!!