**Grade 12 Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

Summer Reading Assignment 2024

***New Boy* by Tracy Chevalier** 

*Please purchase or obtain a copy of this book.*

*There are limited copies at the Lowell Public*

*Library and in Room 202 at Lowell High*

*School. You should have read the book by the*

*first week of school.*

**Summary:**

Arriving at his fifth school in as many years,

diplomat’s son Osei Kokote knows he needs an

ally if he is to survive his first day—so he’s

lucky to hit it off with Dee, the most popular girl

in school. But one student can’t stand to

witness this budding relationship: Ian decides

to destroy the friendship between the black boy

and the golden girl. By the end of the day, the

school and its key players—teachers and

pupils alike—will never be the same again.

The tragedy of Othello is transposed to a 1970s suburban Washington schoolyard, where kids fall in and out of love with each other before lunchtime, and practice a casual racism picked up from their parents and teachers. Peeking over the shoulders of four 11 year olds—Osei, Dee, Ian, and his reluctant "girlfriend" Mimi—Tracy Chevalier's powerful drama of friends torn apart by jealousy, bullying, and betrayal will leave you reeling.

**Please take detailed, handwritten notes on lined paper that address the four questions in the attached document. Please number the sections of your notes to match the questions. At minimum, your notes must fill the front and back of a sheet of lined paper. Bring your notes to our first class meeting. No typed notes will be accepted.**

**While your notes focus on setting, you should pay close attention to characters and events within the story. You will be quizzed on the entire novel upon returning to school; a date will be announced.**

**Questions?** Please reach out to Mr. Berard (dberard@lowell.k12.ma.us) with any questions you may have.

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**Literary Element: Setting**

Document and analyze the setting in this story (location, geography, time of day, year, season, beliefs and traditions)

| 1. ***Where*** does the story take place? *Document specific* ***locations*** *within the story such as geography and main physical location/setting. Quote evidence that provides details of location. Please provide page numbers in parentheses next to the related evidence.* |
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| 2. ***When*** does the story take place? *Document specific references to* ***time*** *in the story. Quote evidence that provides details of time. Please document any shifts in time, such as flashbacks and/or the passage of time, as well. Please provide page numbers in parentheses next to the related evidence.* |
| 3. ***What*** core beliefs and/or traditions influence or govern how characters behave (or are supposed to behave) within the world of the story? *Document specific statements, events and/or actions that reveal something about the* ***culture*** *in the story. Quote evidence that provides details of any cultural influence, bias, or clashes. Please provide page numbers in parentheses next to the related evidence.* |
| 4. **Larger Meaning?** What’s meaningful about these setting details and how do they contribute to the larger meaning (or theme) of the story? (Explain in a paragraph). |