



The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading

Teacher's Name: Mrs. Petro

School Year: 2025-2026

Grade Level: 9

Course No.: 211

Course Name: World Civilizations

Academic Level (AP/Honors/CP/Archangel): Honors

ASSIGNED READING:

Students will read the book *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan

ASSIGNMENT:

Students will choose **ONE** of the following essay prompts, responding to the prompt in one to two pages. The students may not exceed four pages following the MLA Formatting Guidelines.

1. Compare and contrast Amadou's upbringing in Mali with Khadija's in the Ivory Coast. Why does the author, Ms. Sullivan (Sullivan) choose to focus on these two countries? How is the novel's setting in Ivory Coast significant for the themes Sullivan develops?
2. Analyze the relationship between Amadou and Khadija. How does it change throughout the novel? Why do they struggle to get along at first? What changes take place that lead to their eventual friendship?
3. How does Amadou's guilt keep him from experiencing emotional freedom? How do the bosses use Amadou's guilt to manipulate him and keep him subdued?

A Quality Secondary Education in the Franciscan Tradition



4. Amadou, Seydou, and Khadija all experience cruelty at the hands of the bosses. How does their time on the cacao plantation affect each of them differently? How do they all begin to heal in different ways [after escaping the plantation?]
5. What do Amadou and Khadija learn about the cacao industry throughout the novel? How do their step-by-step discoveries lead to their decision to tell their story in Mrs. Kablan's Article? Why do they choose to publish the article, even though it puts them in more danger?

I will set up a Summer Reading Google Classroom to provide support over the summer. The assignment will include a reading guide to help with structured pacing.

Please remember that all summer reading assignments must be your own original work. Submitting work that is plagiarized or generated by AI will result in academic consequences.

DUE: The summer reading assignment is due on the first day of school.