

Lowell English Department

Ninth Grade Summer Reading • 2010

Lowell's English faculty has selected two titles as required summer reading in 2010. Please make certain that you have read the assigned books before you come to school in August. Teachers are aware that many books have been adapted as films. Viewing a film cannot serve as a substitute for reading the book itself.

This is a required assignment that will affect the grade you earn in your English class. Early in the semester your English teacher will expect you to demonstrate your ability to identify and understand various literary elements of the two assigned works:

Otsuka, Julie	<i>When the Emperor was Divine</i>
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i>

To enhance your understanding, ask yourself the following questions as you read:

- *Plot* What happens in the story? How do events, big and small, affect the characters?
- *Characters* How would you describe the characters? Consider what the characters say about themselves or others, how the characters behave, and what the narrator says about them.
- *Conflict* What problems do the characters face in the story and how do they respond to them?
- *Setting* When and where does the story take place? Does setting affect the plot or characters in important ways?
- *Theme* What main idea do you think the author is trying to convey? How does he use the plot, characters, conflict, setting, or other elements to present that idea?