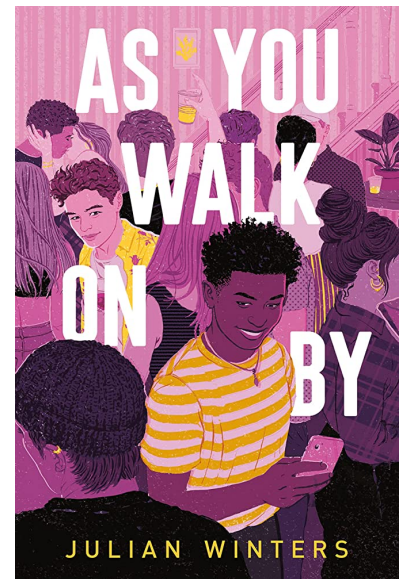


Dear students,

Three years ago, The Rush English Department introduced a new initiative for summer reading. We asked our students to come together in a shared experience of reading, creating, and discussion around a common book and this year we incorporated student voice in the decision making process.

This year's One Book, One Rush selection is Julian Winters *As You Walk On By*, a young adult story that explores identity, love, and friendship. The text selection and related summer reading project (see below) were designed in alignment with our school's [mission and core values](#). This book is relatable and takes a close look at how strangers can be connected. It should give us lots to discuss when we return to Rush Arts in the fall. We can't wait to see what you do with it!



—Your English teachers (Fletcher, Davis, Kates, Feldman, and Bavaro)

## What is this book about? Read on to find out!

Seventeen-year-old Theo Wright has it all figured out. His plan (well, more like his dad's plan) is a foolproof strategy that involves excelling at his magnet school, getting scouted by college recruiters, and going to Duke on athletic scholarship. But for now, all Theo wants is a perfect prom night. After his best friend Jay dares Theo to propose to his crush at Chloe Campbell's party, Theo's ready to throw caution to the wind and take his chances.

But when the promposal goes epically wrong, Theo seeks refuge in an empty bedroom while the party rages on downstairs. Having an existential crisis about who he really is with and without his so-called best friend wasn't on tonight's agenda. Though, as the night goes on, Theo finds he's not as alone as he thinks when, one by one, new classmates join him to avoid who they're supposed be outside the bedroom door. Among them, a familiar acquaintance, a quiet outsider, an old friend, and a new flame . . .

## Summer Reading Text:

[As You Walk On By](#) by Julian Winters

Julian Winters is a best-selling and award winning author. Julian has received accolades for their positive depictions of diverse, relatable characters.

## Google Classroom Code:

**jsedng2**

## Where can you get the book?

[Philadelphia Free Library](#)

→ Need a library card? [Register here!](#)

## Your neighborhood bookstore

→ Consider supporting an independent, BIPOC-owned bookstore: [Here are some links](#)

# Summer Reading Project

1. **READ | Reading Assignment:** Please read the novel *As You Walk On By* by Julian Winters in full in order to complete the two deliverable parts of this assignment, the **creative project** and the **written statement**.
2. **CREATE | Creative Project:** After reading *As You Walk On By*, create a project that explores a big question or topic related to one of the novel's unifying themes. Select a medium in which to create your project that is appropriate to what you want to communicate about the theme. Options (below) are organized by art disciplines in alignment with the art majors offered at Rush, though you are free to work outside of your major or create a multimedia project by creatively combining formats.

Choose from the following options, complete your project, then submit your work to the Summer Reading Google Classroom or to your teacher on the first day of school.

**What is a literary theme?** → A **theme** is the main idea or underlying meaning a writer explores. In works of literature, the theme is an open-ended exploration of some fundamental aspect of society or humanity. Here is a list of common thematic subjects in literature, [linked for your reference](#). **To determine a theme of this novel, consider what the author reveals about these subjects within the work.**

## Creative Project Options:

- **CREATIVE WRITING** | Compose a piece of writing in any genre based on a theme you have identified in *As You Walk On By*: fiction or personal narrative, argument/editorial, or done in comic strip format. Be creative and think outside of the box (for instance, you could compose a text conversation between characters, do a series of journal entries from a character's POV, etc.) Alternatively, you may compose a set of poems in any style (free verse, rhyming verse, etc.); you may use Google Docs or Wattpad, etc.
  - **VISUAL ARTS** | Create a work of art in any medium (illustration, painting, series of photographs, collage or vision board, etc.) that creatively interprets the theme; this may be done on paper/canvas or using a graphic media program like Canva or anything else to which you have access.
  - **THEATRE** | Write a monologue or script and create a video related to the theme you have chosen by scripting and filming a scene using iMovie, FlipGrid, TikTok or something similar.
  - **VOCAL** | Compose lyrics and perform a song which interprets the theme you have chosen. This may be an original composition or a rewriting of an existing song (similar to a "parody" song). Record your song (audio or video) and submit a file or link.
  - **INSTRUMENTAL** | Compose music in any style that interprets the theme you have chosen (for instance, consider the instrumentation, key, tempo, rhythm, leitmotifs, etc. to express narrative ideas musically). Record your song (audio or video) and submit a file or link.
  - **DANCE** | Choreograph a dance which interprets your chosen scene in a creative manner using the language of dance to express narrative ideas. Film a performance of your choreography using iMovie, FlipGrid, TikTok or something similar.
  - **ALTERNATIVE** | Want to create something not on this list? Contact your English teacher for approval.
3. **WRITE | Written Statement:** Compose a brief written statement (250-500 words) in which you:
    - Present a poignant quote from the novel (please include the page number)
    - Provide insightful analysis of this quote
    - Explain how the quote was an inspiration for your creative piece; explain your artistic choices and how your creative project explores a big idea or question inspired by the novel in general, and this quote in particular

## Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

**Do I have to annotate this book?** *No. There is no graded annotation component to this assignment but feel free to annotate to help you capture your ideas as you read*

**How do I check my word count?** *Click “Tools” at the top of your Doc, select “Word Count,” or use the shortcut Command + Shift + C*

**Is there a separate Honors or AP assignments?** *No, but if you would like to challenge yourself beyond the scope of this assignment, we will be sharing other recommended texts for further reading on the Google Classroom*

**How do I submit my project?** *Turn in your work to the Summer Reading 2023 Google Classroom; make sure you are submitting your work to the correct grade-level assignment*

**What if my project is not digital, and can't easily be turned in online, or I am not able to join the Google Classroom?** *You may turn in a hard copy of your assignment to your teacher on the first day of school*

**When is my work due?** *By 11:59 PM on September 5, 2023 (the first day of school)*

**How will this be graded?** *Your project will be graded for Q1 by your rostered teacher according to the rubric below*

**Who do I go to if I have questions?** *Contact your grade-level teacher for next year with further questions:*

- **9th grade:** Leonard Fletcher, [lfletcher@philasd.org](mailto:lfletcher@philasd.org)
- **10th grade:** Anna Kates, [akates@philasd.org](mailto:akates@philasd.org)
- **11th grade:** Max Feldman, [mfeldman@philasd.org](mailto:mfeldman@philasd.org)
- **12th grade:** Sonny Bavaro, [sbavaro@philasd.org](mailto:sbavaro@philasd.org)

## Summer Reading Project Rubric

### **Mind blowing (A+) 100-97 points**

The student has created an exemplary project and earned sophistication points for work that shows a unique approach, a clearly defined sense of voice, and a refined use of language and/or other modes of expression in the medium used.

### **Exemplary (A) 96-90 points**

Project demonstrates a deep exploration of a big question or topic related to one of the novel's unifying themes. The medium chosen for the project is appropriate and used skillfully and creatively. Project has high production values or very minor issues that do not interfere with communication of ideas. Written statement includes a poignant quote from the text and an insightful analysis of how the project explores a big idea or question inspired by that quote. All requirements are met or exceeded and the whole project gives an impression of neatness, creativity, and care.

### **Proficient (B): 80 - 89**

Project demonstrates an exploration of a question or topic related to one of the novel's themes. The medium chosen for the project is appropriate and used somewhat skillfully and creatively. Project may have some issues but they do not interfere with communication of ideas. Written statement includes a quote from the text and a surface analysis of how the project explores a big idea or question inspired by that quote. All requirements are met.

### **Developing (C): 70 - 79**

A project was submitted but may not clearly connect to the novel or explore a big idea or question. Poor production values may interfere with communication. A written statement is provided but may be off topic, contain little to no analysis, or not clearly demonstrate a connection between the quote and the project. The project shows minimal creativity or effort and could be neater.

### **Incomplete (D/F): 69 points or below**