

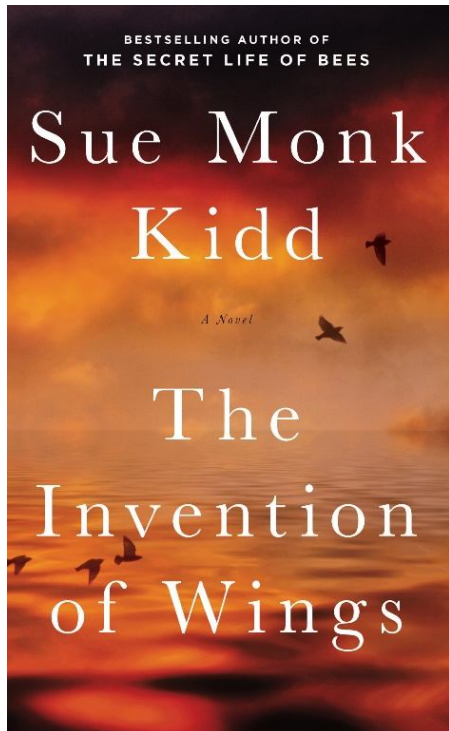
Dear rising Advanced English senior,

Summer reading is great for keeping your reading and reflective skills sharp. To help you prepare this summer to excel in senior English, you get to read a gripping, empowering novel—inspired by real people and events—about two women’s journeys to realize their voices in an era when they were silenced and sidelined.

Our senior study of English is **culture-centric**, daring you to expand your horizons through perspectives beyond your own experience. In every text we examine, we will return to three major themes:

- **STORY: how people understand who they are as individuals and who they are to others or their community.** Consider: Who is this person, and how have they learned their identity? What experiences or messages have shaped them so?
- **VOICE: how people use their voices to express themselves, assert their identities, even to control or silence others.** Consider: Who is speaking, and what are they saying? Who is silent, and what isn’t being said?
- **CULTURE: how people create and share a common story through expression, narrative, norms, values, and beliefs.** Consider: What is the story that people create together, and how do these agreements shape the stories around them—justly or unjustly?

To begin our class conversations about these themes, we will explore:



### ***The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd**

*Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an African-American slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, South Carolina, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the Grimke household. The Grimkes’ daughter Sarah has known from an early age that she is meant to do something of importance in the world, but the limits imposed on women hem her in. On Sarah’s eleventh birthday, she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. What follows is their journey together over the next 35 years as both strive for a life of their own and dramatically shape each other’s destinies.*

### **Critical Concerns connections: Why *this* book?**

Our connection to the Sisters of Mercy invites us to consider their Critical Concerns—in literature, too! Handful’s and Sarah’s stories spotlight **nonviolence**, **women**, and **racism**.

**Flip to the other side for our reading expectations!**

## Reading Expectations

As seniors, you know well by now that reading is an active affair. We don't just read to comprehend; we read to respond, connect, discover, and change. To help you enhance your enjoyment of the novel—and prepare for our eventual discussions and assessments—complete the following:

- **Annotate:** Track key quotes, descriptions, or details that illustrate characters, setting, and our major themes and Critical Concerns suggested on the front page. Use the margins to log your discoveries or questions—good annotating involves writing, not just highlighting!
- **Summarize:** Write a 2-3 sentence summary of the main plot events on the last page of each chapter.
- **Reflect:** As you read, be mindful of any personal or current connections you experience in the story. Where do you see yourself or our world today? What's Kidd's message for her readers, and so what? Who cares?

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*The Invention of Wings* isn't "just" summer reading; it's the first of many texts we will refer to *routinely* as part of class. You can expect this text in almost every major conversation throughout the year. Apart from just finishing your summer reading, prepare well to carry this novel with you every step of the way. It's a good read and a great start!

If you need to reach me over the summer, send me an email at my Assumption address: [Eileen.Moore@ahsrockets.org](mailto:Eileen.Moore@ahsrockets.org). I'll be delighted to discuss our class or our reading. Welcome to senior year!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Moore

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you decide to make a schedule change over the summer that results in a change in academic level for English, you will be required to read the book(s) assigned for that level. You will need to find the correct summer reading assignment on the school website (Academics, Textbooks & Summer Reading Lists) and complete those requirements by the beginning of the school year.