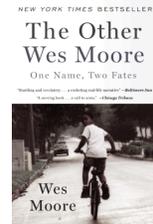


## 9th Grade HONORS Required Reading

*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*  
Wes Moore



"The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his."

-Wes Moore

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

\*After reading *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, complete **ONE** of the two assignments on the following pages.

## SCHS Rising 9th Grade Honors Summer Reading Assignment

After reading *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore, you should complete **ONE** of the following two assignments. Please bring the assignment with you on the first day of class: August 3 for first semester students and January 6 for second semester students. After spending approximately the first week of class covering the book, there will be a multiple choice, closed-book test.

**Choose ONE of the following options on the Most Important Value:**

### **Option One: Newspaper Article**

1. At the top of your paper, write or type what you think is the single most important value or theme found in *Wes Moore*. **This idea must be written in one or two insightful, complete sentences.**
2. Divide your paper into 2 columns.
3. Choose an article from a credible newspaper, magazine, or online news website that has another current, real-world example of the value or theme you have chosen. Avoid Wikipedia, social networks, blogs, and other unreliable sources. Write or type the entire content of your example in the left-hand column. Make sure you include the title, publication (ex. *New York Times*), the author's name, and the date the article was published.
4. In the right-hand column, explain in 3-5 paragraphs the connection between the idea found in the book and the additional real-world example. Your explanation should demonstrate a thoughtful, insightful, and thorough connection between the two texts.
  - a. Your response should include the following: specific examples from the book, specific examples from the article, and how both of these are connected.
5. See the example provided. Your assignment may be typed or handwritten.

### **Option Two: Poem**

1. At the top of the paper, write or type what you think is the single most important value or theme found in *Wes Moore*. **This idea must be written in one or two insightful, complete sentences.**
2. Divide your paper into 2 columns.
3. Select a poem by a reputable author which illustrates this idea. Avoid social media posts, blogs, or other websites with poems from random writers. Instead, choose a poem written by a **professional, published author**. For example, *The Other Wes Moore* is filled with values or themes relatable to Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken." However, **you must find a different poem** upon which you will base your response to encourage diversity among student selections and meet expectations for honors-level assignments.
4. Write or type the entire content of your poem in the left-hand column. Make sure you include the title, the author's name, and the date the poem was published.
5. In the right-hand column, explain in 3-5 paragraphs the connection between the idea found in *Wes Moore* and the poem. Your explanation should demonstrate a thoughtful, insightful, and thorough connection between the two texts.
  - a. Your response should include the following: specific examples from the book, specific examples from the poem, and how both of these are connected.
6. See the example provided. Your assignment may be typed or handwritten.

## Example of Most Important Idea on *Romeo and Juliet*

**Most Important Value:** Although secrets are meant to be kept, sometimes it is a person's duty to break the trust of another if the secret is harmful.

"Mahony Comes Up Short"	Explanation of the Connection
<p data-bbox="198 466 532 554"><b>Los Angeles Times</b> <b>February 20, 2004</b> <b>(Author's name not given)</b></p> <p data-bbox="198 583 795 810">Cardinal Roger M. Mahony has insisted throughout the allegations of priestly abuse of minors in the Los Angeles Archdiocese that his top priority was the protection of victims. Unfortunately for all involved in this heartbreaking affair, the available evidence finds him still dragging out the process.</p> <p data-bbox="198 844 789 1339">Even in Mahony's welcome and heralded "Report to the People of God," issued this week, there's little that's new. For instance, although the report states that 244 priests, deacons and others associated with the Catholic Church have been accused of abuse, only the 211 names already made public by the press or in court proceedings are given in the report. Providing authorities with the names of the other 33 people accused of misdeeds, no matter what the archdiocese deems the quality of the accusations, would have been new and worthy. Instead, through litigation the archdiocese continues to block the release of personnel files that would move all such cases forward.</p> <p data-bbox="198 1373 789 1801">Handing over needed information to authorities would not dismiss a presumption of innocence. It would, however, show a commitment to protecting children from possible continued abuse by allowing civil authorities to decide on the allegations' worth. For more than 20 months the district attorney's office has sought archdiocese records regarding allegations of child sex abuse. Through its legal resistance, the archdiocese, under the umbrella of protecting the possibly innocent, sends a message that its clergy carry more weight than protecting and providing justice to children.</p>	<p data-bbox="821 466 1409 823">Cardinal Roger M. Mahony's report, "Report to the People of God," has included the names of 211 of the 244 priests who allegedly committed child abuse. This leaves authorities with 33 priests whose identities are unknown. It would be helpful to the authorities to have the names of the priests so they could investigate and possibly bring those men to trial. By refusing to give the additional names, Mahony appears to be protecting the clergy over the children. His silence hinders the police investigations.</p> <p data-bbox="821 856 1419 1218">In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, the Friar and the Nurse also withhold information. The Friar not only secretly marries Romeo and Juliet, but he also keeps their marriage a secret. The Nurse helps Romeo and Juliet by being a messenger of sorts and by setting up the arrangements for the marriage. Both deliberately help to keep Romeo and Juliet's marriage secret, even from the parents who trust them. It would have been to everyone's benefit to tell Capulet, Montague, the Prince, and even the County Paris.</p> <p data-bbox="821 1251 1412 1646">Mahony's resistance of giving additional information prevents justice from being served. The information could help provide protection for children and could prevent the injustice from happening again. In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, the Friar and Nurse withhold information that possibly could have saved Romeo and Juliet's lives. Although secrets are given in confidence that they will not be told, sometimes it is a person's duty to break the trust of another, especially if the secret is harmful. Both texts demonstrate that some secrets should be told to prevent harmful situations.</p>

Mahony should release to authorities the files of accused church employees as well as ensure that all those facing credible accusations who are still employed by the archdiocese are suspended from the ministry or from other church-related employment until their cases are cleared.

Mahony no doubt sees himself as torn between two responsibilities, to his priests and to the faithful, but this is a case in which the cardinal must place his faith in civil authority. The innocence of priests accused of pedophilia is not for Mahony or church lawyers to decide.