

5th Grade SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Over the summer, rising 5th grade scholars are required to read *How We Are Smart* by W. Nikola-Lisa and type their response to five reflection questions. *How We Are Smart* by W. Nikola-Lisa is a children's book on multiculturalism and multiple intelligences, Learning, Creativity, Self-Esteem, and Diversity. *How We Are Smart* includes twelve biographies of successful and diverse people in various fields. The author W. Nikola-Lisa, has chosen these people to show that they are all smart, but in different ways. Each profile focuses on one person and tells through a direct quotation, poem and nonfiction text what that person accomplished and the ways in which he or she was smart.

Reflective Response Assignment

After reading *How We Are Smart*, students will type a separate response to each of the five questions below in Word, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Students will receive instructions from their Literature and Ethics (Reading) teacher on how to submit their Reflective Response by Friday, August 9, 2024. We encourage scholars not to wait until the due date to complete the assignment as teachers will issue additional assignments based on the selected readings during the first two weeks of school.

Reflection Response Questions

1. After reading all the profiles, what are some characteristics the people in this book have in common? How did these traits help them succeed?
2. Select your favorite profile. List the person's name and write the central idea of the profile. In your statement, explain why this profile is your favorite, why this profile interests you, and how you connect to the information presented.
3. President Barack Obama has told students that "being successful is hard." Give at least 3 examples of why the people in this book would agree with him.
4. In this book information is provided in multiple formats, a quotation, poem, text, and illustration. Think about the different ways information is given about each person and state which format was most interesting to you and explain why.
5. Select one pair of the profiles, compare and contrast the information provided about both individuals, and answer the following questions:
 - What type of smart are they?
 - How are their character traits similar and how are they unique?
 - Even though their areas of expertise are different, how are their achievements and contributions similar?
 - How were their family relationships similar or different?
 - What challenges did they each face on their paths to success?
 - What role did education play in their achievement in their fields?

Pair Profiles options:

Matthew Henson and Ynes Mexia;

Luis Alvarez and Annie Jump Cannon;

Patsy Takemoto Mink and Thurgood Marshall; or

Marian Anderson and Tito Puente

“How We Are Smart” by W. Nikola-Lisa.

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