

**Required Summer Reading and Essay**

Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

After reading the novel, write a 500-700 word essay in which you address the following prompt:

In *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, several characters are hostile towards stories. Mr. Sengupta disapproves of stories that aren't true, and Khattam Shud wants to stop storytelling altogether. Similarly, there are people in the real world who want to control what other people say.

Write an essay in which you (1) explain why particular characters in *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* are hostile towards stories, (2) answer the question of whether or not you think stories are sometimes dangerous (and explain why), and (3) answer the question of whether or not you think some stories should be censored (and explain why). In your essay, you should include at least one specific quotation from the novel and at least one specific example of a potentially dangerous book.

A few notes:

- The essay should have multiple paragraphs. Body paragraphs should have topic sentences, and you should use transitions between paragraphs.
- The 2nd and 3rd parts above are about your opinion. You should be clear about what that opinion is and you should explain why you hold that opinion.
- Make sure to provide citations for your quotations and include a Works Cited page.
- If you use any outside sources, you **must cite them** (otherwise, you will be plagiarizing).
- Do not look to outside sources about the novel. However, if you want to do research about dangerous stories, censorship, or banned books, that is fine. Make sure to cite any of these sources.
- Take time to do your best work. That means that you should do some planning before you start writing, and you should proofread your essay before turning it in. Do not try to do the whole thing in one sitting.
- You've learned how to write essays in the past. You should use those skills for this essay.