

**Rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment**  
**English Language Arts**  
**Pleasant View School**

**Memoir: Color of Water by James McBride**

**Alternative memoir: One Writer's Beginnings by Eudora Welty**

(Note: You are only required to read one of these memoirs. The alternative is provided if you object to any of the content in Color of Water.)

The memoir assignment is provided below and is based on the classic college application question that most—if not all – of you will have to address as you complete your college applications.

If you need assistance during the summer or if you want me to read any part of a draft, feel free to email me at [jcartwrightalejo@pleasantviewschool.com](mailto:jcartwrightalejo@pleasantviewschool.com)

**Memoir Assignment:** James McBride chronicles his relationship with his mother Ruth, a Jewish woman who married an African American man in 1942, and through this memoir he discovers how his relationship with her impacted the constitution of his identity. Discuss one person in your life who has had a significant impact on developing your identity. In other words, who in your life has helped to make you who you are? (Approximate length: 3 pages)