



# Brooklyn Technical High School

**Randy J. Asher, Principal**

Tracy Atkins Zoughlami, AP English

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Dear Incoming BTHS Freshman:

The English program at Tech is a challenging one. It offers many opportunities to experience success in thinking clearly, reading closely, writing precisely, and exploring the imaginative dimension. These skills will form the foundation for outstanding performance in all subjects at Tech; proficiency on the PSAT, SAT, Regents and Advanced Placement exams; academic excellence in college and graduate school; and a lifetime of intellectual vitality.

The curriculum for freshman English begins this summer with a required reading assignment. You are to select and read two books from each of the lists below. This means you will select one work of fiction and one work of nonfiction for a total of two books. Upon your return to school in September, you will have the opportunity to review the assignment and speak with your teacher regarding the assessment.

Prior to visiting your local library, you might consider searching the online catalog to determine the books' availability. You can access the public library catalogs online at <http://web2.queenslibrary.org>, <http://www.nypl.org/catalogs> &/or <http://catalog.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>.

Books are available for purchase at local bookstores and online at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), [www.strandbooks.com](http://www.strandbooks.com), and [www.bordersstores.com](http://www.bordersstores.com).

## Fiction

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*  
Betty Smith

*Childhood's End*  
Arthur C. Clarke

*Ender's Game*  
Orson Scott Card

*City of the Beasts*  
Isabel Allende

*America*  
E.R. Frank

*Dawn*  
Octavia Butler

*Summer of My German Soldier*  
Betty Green

*Time and Again*  
Jack Finney

## Nonfiction

*Bound Feet and Western Dress*  
N. P-Mei Chang

*Gifted Hands*  
Dr. Ben Carson

*It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*  
Lance Armstrong

*The Color of Water*  
James McBride

*Dreams from My Father*  
Barack Obama

*Longitude*  
Dava Sobel

*Paperboy: Confessions of a Future Engineer*  
Henry Petroski

*Into Thin Air*  
Jon Krakauer

Please be advised that some of the suggested works may contain **mature language, themes, or situations**. We strongly encourage parents and/or guardians to preview the books.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this assignment over the summer, please feel free to contact me at [tazoughlami@bths.edu](mailto:tazoughlami@bths.edu). I intend to check my e-mail weekly. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the readings. We look forward to your return in September.

Sincerely,

Tracy Atkins Zoughlami  
Assistant Principal – English