



May, 2026

Dear Rising Sophomore,

Next year, you will be a tenth grader at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School. It is our hope that you have developed habits that include doing your assigned homework in all of your classes. In your English classes, the assigned work next year will consist of doing a great deal of reading. In class, you will be expected to use your experience of reading the assigned literature in order to participate in the class activities. These activities may be discussions, group work, vocabulary study, presentations, quizzes or worksheets. A careful reading of all assigned texts is the first step to achievement in your English classes. In tenth grade, the literature we assign will all be under the thematic umbrella we call Global Voices. This means you will be reading about people who live in diverse areas of the world.

Your first reading assignment of the year is to read a book over the summer break. You are required to buy the book and bring it to school on the first day of class and on other days according to the instructions given to you by your tenth grade English teacher. The title and author of the book and the isbn# identifying the required edition are as follows:

Girl of the Southern Sea by Michelle Kadarusman 9781772782363

The novel is a story about Nia, a girl your age, who lives in Jarkarta, Indonesia. You should look up where this is on a map. The circumstances of Nia's life are very different from the circumstances of your life. You should make note of how this is true as you read the story and of how Nia responds to the challenges of her life.

Have a nice summer!

Mrs. Susan Newborn,
Chair of the English Department