Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 9th Graders 2019
Your Summer Reading Assignment is due on the first day of school.

Essential Questions for Summer Reading Assignment: How can place/location/geography impact our experiences? What does it mean to be human in a world with an imbalance of power?

- **Rationale for required reading**: As you continue your journey through high school and college, many (if not all) AP classes and college courses will have a required text and assignment. In order to best prepare you for these classes, we are requiring one book to be read by all students. *Persepolis* is a contemporary, thought-provoking, and entertaining text that engages with key elements, topics, and questions we will be exploring throughout 9th grade Humanities. *Persepolis* will be the basis of our first lessons and activities of the school year.

- **About Persepolis**: *Persepolis* is an autobiographical graphic novel depicting Marjane Satrapi’s childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. The *New York Times* says, “Like Spiegelman’s *Maus*, Satrapi's book combines political history and memoir, portraying a country’s 20th-century upheavals through the story of one family. Her protagonist is Marji, a tough, sassy little Iranian girl, bent on prying from her evasive elders if not truth, at least a credible explanation of the travails they are living through.” Her family is “fashionably radical”. Her father is an engineer; her feminist mother marches in demonstrations against the Shah; Marji, an only child, attends a French school. The text reveals Marji’s reflections, experiences, and opinions of life in Iran as it becomes more fundamental and rigid.

**Assignment Tasks**: Read *Persepolis*, then complete an analysis paragraph (not a summary or evaluation of the novel) after carefully reading the directions below.

**Analysis Paragraph**

**Directions**: Select a prompt below based on your own evaluation of your reading level. Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph to address that prompt. Be sure to include specific details from the text to justify/support your point of view. A sufficient response will address ALL questions in the prompt and utilize evidence from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.

**Level 1 Readers**
- Where does your sense of identity come from (for example, who or what affects you as a person, shapes who you are)? Explain. Who or what affects/shapes the main character’s (protagonist) sense of identity in the text? Explain. How do the war and politics of Iran shape Marjane’s sense of self?

**Level 2 Readers**
- What are ways in which you build your own identity as you move through the world? Explain. How does this compare or contrast to the main character in the text? How do government and religion impact your identity? How does this compare to Marjane’s sense of self?

**NOTE**: This text can be ordered online and found at most local bookstores or at the Denver Public Library. Please email Mrs. Albarkat with any questions/concerns: colby.albarkat@scienceandtech.org.