Brandywine High School Summer Reading Packet

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Brandywine School District, as part of its “One Book, One School” program, has asked the Social Studies Department at each high school to select a summer reading book that reflects the philosophy of the school. After discussing numerous books, the Brandywine High School Social Studies Department has selected *My Beloved World*, by Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The Brandywine High School Social Studies Department believes that *My Beloved World* is a book that reflects many of the ideals that we attempt to inculcate in our students on a daily basis as “The Brandywine HS Experience”: Service, Honor, Excellence, Resilience, Leadership, and Character. As your son or daughter reads this account of Sotomayor’s life, please have them do the following:

1) Complete the attached study guide, which includes vocabulary terms and questions. This guide will aid him or her when completing the assessment on the book which will be given during the first two weeks of school. Reading guides will not be graded.

2) Consider how Sotomayor’s life experience mirrors the ideals referenced above.

*My Beloved World* was chosen as an exemplar of “The Brandywine Experience.” Sotomayor’s experience of rising through educational avenues to Princeton, Yale Law School, the District Attorney’s Office of Manhattan, the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, and finally, the U.S. Supreme Court reflects the possibilities that exist for students who establish goals, work hard, and challenge themselves to do their best possible work every day.

We hope your son or daughter enjoys reading *My Beloved World*. We look forward to seeing everyone in late August. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

The Brandywine High School Social Studies Department:

Anne Marie Bartolozzi  
Jean Marie Leonard  
Department Co-Chair  
Department Co-Chair

Mathew Houck  
Kenny Rivera  
Joe Rapczynski  
Chris Smeader

Katie VanSuch
**Vocabulary Sheet**

Identify the following terms and relate them to *My Beloved World*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>term</th>
<th>relationship</th>
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<tr>
<td>culture</td>
<td>prejudice</td>
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<tr>
<td>diabetes</td>
<td>discrimination</td>
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<td>Abuelita</td>
<td>mentor</td>
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<td>unconditional love</td>
<td>litigation</td>
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<td>gender</td>
<td>nomination</td>
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<td>ethnicity</td>
<td>stereotype</td>
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<td>judicial selection committee</td>
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**My Beloved World Questions for Study Guide (1-20):**

1. What type of community did Sotomayor live in as a child?
2. What were three hardships faced by Sotomayor during her childhood?
3. Explain how diabetes influenced her perspective on life. (p.99)
4. Why were her cousins or friends not permitted to visit her home?
5. Sotomayor says that in order to thrive, a child must have at least one adult in their life that shows unconditional love, respect, and confidence (p.16). Who was that person in Sotomayor’s life? Who is that in yours?
6. Sotomayor discusses the impact that her father’s lack of attention has on her life. What does it say about a person’s character when they are unable or unwilling to acknowledge their impact on someone’s life?
7. Why do you think her Mother never spoke to Sotomayor about being abandoned as a child? (p.49) How does your capacity to forgive reflect your character?
8. How does Sotomayor’s parents’ history affect her resilience?
9. What roles do gender and ethnicity play in Sotomayor’s experiences at Princeton? What helps her to adjust to the unfamiliar, often unfriendly, atmosphere of Princeton? (p. 160)
10. Affirmative action is the policy of setting aside a certain amount of seats in a college class or jobs for minorities. Discuss the arguments can be made for supporting or opposing affirmative action. (p. 183)

11. How have the prejudices Sotomayor encountered changed over time? (p. 245) Are things better, the same or worse today? Explain.

12. Who is the person Sotomayor describes as her first true mentor? (p.224)

13. How do the mentors she meets throughout her life help her to become a role model for others?

14. Explain her experiences with prejudice and/or discrimination while working as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City.

15. Why does Sotomayor divorce Kevin Noonan in 1983? (pp.280-285)

16. Sotomayor was married at a very young age. Why might it be harder for some teen marriages to last?

17. Describe the hardships that may occur when a wife is more successful in her career and makes more money than her husband.

18. How have Sotomayor’s strong attachments to her community, family, and friends shaped her personality and outlook on life?

19. How does Sotomayor define herself at the end of the book?

20. After reading her book, do you think Sotomayor will have a successful tenure as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court? Explain.