

English 2 Honors

LEARNING TARGET... READING FOR ALL PURPOSES 3.1
I can analyze traditional and contemporary texts with scrutiny and comparison of literary elements.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions during the Summer, you may email us. Be patient and allow 72 hours for a response.

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Welcome to Honors English III! Congratulations on your decision to challenge yourself with an honors-level English class. The extra effort you will put forth will make you a better reader, writer, and critical thinker. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the fall!

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

You will choose one of the memoirs from the list provided on the second page. You must select one that you have not read. All titles are on the District Approved List. **A brief summary is included with each memoir title.**

1. Read your chosen memoir with the knowledge that you will participate in a student-led discussion over the book, and you may have a writing assignment over the book. Therefore, please annotate as you feel appropriate. *Annotations will not be graded.*
2. Create a **Google document using MLA format**, and title your assignment **Summer Reading - Book Title**.
3. Analyze and **reflect on your text by answering the following questions**. While we are not specifying a specific length, you need to elaborate and thoroughly answer each question, using specific evidence from the text (direct or indirect). MEAL paragraph format could be a nice way to organize your thoughts.
 - **What resonated with you in the book (connections, takeaways, lessons)? Why?**
 - **In your opinion, what is the book's value, significance, importance? Why?**
 - **What is a main theme (message) of the text stated as a theme statement? How is this theme developed in the text?**
 - **Pick a pivotal moment in this book when your main character recognizes his or her place in the world, and explain the impact of this moment on the character's journey.**
 - **Create four discussion questions over topics you would like to discuss with your peers about the text.**

Some friendly reminders...

- **NO collaboration with other students and NO research on the internet**
- **Any assistance from the Internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, Shmoop, Lit Charts, etc. will be viewed as cheating.**
- **Your responses will be submitted to Turnitin.com through Canvas the first day of class and should reflect YOUR ORIGINAL thoughts, opinions, reactions, and analysis of the text.**

Due Date: Have your assignment completed by the first day of class. You will upload it to Canvas when you return to school.

Assessment: The Summer assignment gives teachers an idea of what your skill level is, helps you maintain a level of engagement over the summer, and gives us a springboard of common content to use. We will use these books and your summer assignment as the basis for several in-class activities, discussions, assignments during the first few weeks of school. Be prepared to engage with others about your text when you return to school!

Memoirs to choose from and a brief summary (from Barnes & Noble):

1. **Memoir Choice #1: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah (ISBN-13: 978-0399588198):**

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

2. **Memoir Choice #2: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (ISBN-13: 978-0743247542):**

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing--a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

3. **Memoir Choice #3: *Educated* by Tara Westover (ISBN-13: 978-0399590504):**

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

