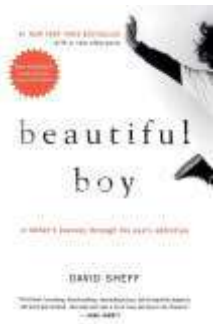


English III Honors & AP Language & Composition 2024-25 Summer Reading Assignment

MEMOIR SELECTION

Select ONE of the following memoirs to use for your summer reading. You may purchase the book or borrow it from the library.



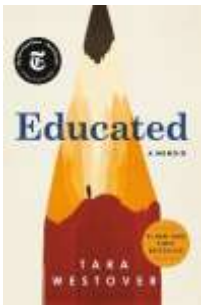
***Beautiful Boy* by David Sheff**

What had happened to my beautiful boy? To our family? What did I do wrong? Those are the wrenching questions that haunted David Sheff's journey through his son Nic's addiction to drugs and tentative steps toward recovery. Before Nic became addicted to crystal meth, he was a charming boy, joyous and funny, a varsity athlete and honor student adored by his two younger siblings. After meth, he was a trembling wraith who lied, stole, and lived on the streets. David Sheff traces the first warning signs: the denial, the three a.m. phone calls—is it Nic? the police? the hospital? His preoccupation with Nic became an addiction in itself. But as a journalist, he instinctively researched every treatment that might save his son. And he refused to give up on Nic.



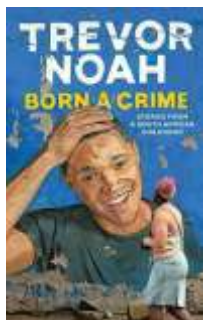
***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer's—in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.



***Educated* by Tara Westover**

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

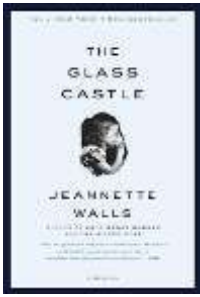


***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah (audio version read by Trevor Noah is wonderful)**

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. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

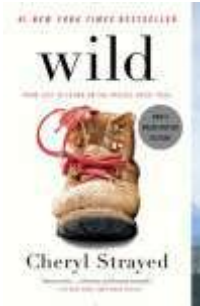
The eighteen personal essays collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and

unflinching honesty. 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.



***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

The Glass Castle is a 2005 memoir by American author Jeannette Walls. Walls recounts her dysfunctional and nomadic yet vibrant upbringing, emphasizing her resilience and her father's attempts toward redemption. Despite her family's flaws, their love for each other and her unique perspective on life allowed her to create a successful life of her own, culminating in a career in journalism in New York City. The book's title refers to her father's ultimate unfulfilled promise, to build his dream home for the family, a glass castle.



***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed**

A powerful, blazingly honest memoir: the story of an eleven-hundred-mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe—and built her back up again.

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone.



***Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen**

In 1967, after a session with a psychiatrist she'd never seen before, eighteen-year-old Susanna Kaysen was put in a taxi and sent to McLean Hospital. Her memoir of the next two years is a poignant, honest, triumphantly funny, and heartbreaking story.

The ward for teenage girls in the McLean psychiatric hospital was as renowned for its famous clientele—Sylvia Plath, Robert Lowell, James Taylor, and Ray Charles—as for its progressive methods of treating those who could afford its sanctuary. Kaysen's memoir encompasses horror and razor-edged perception while providing vivid portraits of her fellow patients and their keepers. It is a brilliant

evocation of a "parallel universe" set within the kaleidoscopically shifting landscape of the late sixties.

Assignment Parts: These assignments are due on the first day of school, and must be submitted to Google Classroom before coming to class on the first day of school. If you print and annotate the Zinsser excerpt or the Welty excerpt instead of using Kami, bring it on the first day of class. Also, you will bring your StudyTee notes and your memoir to the first day of class, be prepared to discuss it.

- JOIN the **AP Language** Summer Reading Google Classroom. **CODE:**
- JOIN the **Eng III Honors** Summer Reading Google Classroom. **CODE:**

1. READ and PURPOSELY ANNOTATE "How to Write a Memoir" by William Zinsser. You may access the text via our Summer Reading Google Classroom page. What advice does Zinsser give to writers? While reading your Choice Book, consider how the author follows Zinsser's advice. Be prepared to share your observations. This document is in Google Classroom and

may be annotated with Kami. (Note that you should have underlining/highlighting AND writing in the margins.)

2. READ and PURPOSELY ANNOTATE the passage from *One Writer's Beginnings* by Eudora Welty. You may access the text via our Summer Reading Google Classroom page. Note specific rhetorical choices and strategies that Welty uses to convey her love of reading in this short vignette. Note how she creates *voice* in the text. You can reference the list of rhetorical choices for your annotations that is listed on the Google Classroom page, but note that anything an author does to convey their message is a rhetorical choice. (Note that you should have underlining/highlighting AND writing in the margins.)
3. Write a 1 ½ to 2 page vignette of your own experiences with reading and/or writing (positive or negative). Eudora Welty gave us a specific snapshot of what influenced her as a reader as a child. You will be writing your own snapshot moment. Your own personal voice should shine through (do not try to copy Welty's voice), and your experience should tell me something about you as a reader/writer. This will also help me get to know you on a more individual level to help kick off the school year. Make it interesting. This assignment should not exceed two full pages. If possible, turn this narrative in BEFORE school starts. This assignment will be graded on exposition, development, conventions, style, and conclusion (see the attached rubric on Google Classroom).
4. **Texts --** [How to take efficient and neat notes](#) and [How I take notes \(neat and effective\)](#). After watching StudyTee's notes system, think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used this summer and during the year. ([See example HERE.](#)) Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). We will use this notebook to create notes for major works that we study, so find one that you really like.
5. READ your choice book and take notes. You will create FOUR PAGES OF SKETCHNOTES.
6. StudyTee Notes Analysis: While reading one of the choice memoirs, you will be creating four pages of sketchnotes.
 - a. You must incorporate AT LEAST TWO PROPERLY CITED QUOTES from the memoir per task.
 - b. Each of your responses must include notes, pictures, color, and insightful analysis/commentary.
 - c. Be creative! Organize it how you see fit!
 - d. You should work on these notes AS YOU READ - think about what quotes, images, and analysis/commentary you will include for each task.
 - e. Each note page should also include some overall thoughts as to the meaning of the work as a whole in relation to that topic. Think about the big picture or the overall purpose of the text.

Tasks (CHOOSE FOUR - ONE NOTE PAGE PER TASK)

- **Emotional Journey:** What was the most emotionally devastating moment in the story? What were the important events that gave hope and/or joy to the writer? When was the writer most frightened? What was the impact of these moments on the writer?
- **Obstacles:** What were the major obstacles that stood in his or her way of achieving their goals? How did they overcome these obstacles?
- **Relationships:** What were the most important relationships between the writer and a particular person(s), place(s), animal, object, etc? How was that relationship significant?
- **Theme:** What overarching theme or lesson does the writer focus on? What was your takeaway from the story?
- **Craft:** What rhetorical strategies does the writer use to tell his or her story and connect with the audience and why? What is the author's style? What kinds of appeals does he or she use? Consider tone, figurative language, imagery, diction, syntax, structure, and anything else the author does to achieve their purpose. Consider HOW the strategy achieves the purpose and the response it evokes in the reader.
- **Beautiful Words:** What passage(s) touches your heart? What do you consider beautiful writing and why?
- **Zinsser Connection:** How has this author used Zinsser's advice about writing memoirs?

Complete and submit your StudyTee Notes in class on the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 5.**

These notes will be graded holistically.

7. AP LANGUAGE ONLY - Choose a Stephen King novel to read over the summer and create a one pager when you are finished with the book.

Stephen King has a variety of novels and genres to choose from - choose one that interests you!

Your One-Pager should be done on a plain white paper, 8-1/2 x 11", one side only, with your name clearly in evidence on the front side of the paper.

1. A one pager is a single-page response to your reading. It is a way of making your pattern of your unique understanding. It is a way to be creative and experimental. The purpose of a one-pager is to own what you are reading. We learn best when we can create our own patterns.

2. When you do a one-pager:

- a. Use quotations from the text to explore one of your own ideas, and write them on the page (perhaps using a different colored pen).
- b. Use visual images, either drawn or cut from magazines, to create a visual focus.
- c. Cluster around a dominant impression, feeling or thought you have while reading.

d. Create the one-pager so that your audience will understand something about the reading from what you do.

e. Use colored pens or pencils and unlined paper.

3. What not to do:

a. Don't merely summarize.

b. Don't think a half a page will do—make it rich with quotes and images.

4. Grading: full credit depends on completeness (and imagination counts, too.)

Your one-pager should contain these elements:

- Write the **title** of the book and the **author's name** somewhere on the page (this can be done creatively!)
- A **central picture** which somehow captures the essence of the text. (This could include characters, setting, thematic elements, or conflicts.)
- **IMAGES and/or QUOTES** for the following categories:
 - The main character's emotional journey and or growth
 - Obstacles or conflicts faced in the text
 - The most important relationships in the text
 - The theme or overall message of the text (this should be a phrase, NOT merely a topic; it is the lesson we learn from the text)
 - Symbols or motifs (repeated concepts or images in a text) and why they are important.
- You should have **AT LEAST THREE QUOTES AND FOUR IMAGES** total for these categories (so some categories might have both, while some categories might only have an image or a quote).

Bring the completed assignment to class on Tuesday, September 5. Your one pager should be FULL of text and images - so what is listed above is the MINIMUM that is required. For an A expect to go above the minimum.

Good luck! Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns, and I will get back to you. Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in September!

Ms. McMillen & Mrs. Soliman

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