

June 2017

To the members of the Class of 2018 and their parents.

Welcome to the Eighth Grade!

For your summer selection you will be asked to read a memoir of your choice. A memoir is a piece of writing that recalls a personal experience. It usually focuses on the significance of the relationship between the writer and another individual or thing and is supported by memories of those specific experiences.

Make sure when you are choosing your book that you remember the difference between a memoir (a narrative about certain relationships or experiences) and an autobiography (a narrative which spans the experiences of a person's whole life).

Upon returning to school in September, we will be studying the qualities that make memoirs successful, and you will be asked to share and draw upon your analytical and personal reactions in an open-ended response. In order to do so, please take into consideration maintaining some kind of annotation system or "interactive notebook" in which you keep track of literary elements, literary devices, and personal reactions.

Along with reading and annotating, I ask that you reflect upon the literary qualities you found unique to the genre of the memoir. Please explain your findings in either list or paragraph form. Be sure to include text evidence and/or your reasoning as to why these qualities stand out to you. Aside from the fact that this will count as your first homework grade, your ideas will jumpstart much of our class discussion.

It is my deepest hope that reading memoirs will help remind all of us, that even though our lives seem mundane, it is the day-to-day activities as well as the major national and international events which occur, that have an affect on how we live, and shape the people we will become in the future.

Have a wonderful summer break. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kosakowski

Please e-mail your memoir selection to kosakowski@nvnet.org by: July 31st.

Memoir Title	Author	Memoir Title	Author
A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me	Schmidt	Red Scarf Girl	Jiang
A Long Way Gone	Beah	Relish	Knisley
After The Wall	Hensel	Rocket Boys	Hickman
Bad Boy	Myers	Sharp	Fitzpatrick
Beautiful Boy	Sheff	Soul Surfer	Hamilton
Candy Freak	Almond	Stick Figure	Lori Gotleib
Caught By the Sea	Paulsen	Swimming to Antarctica	Cox
Chinese Cinderella	Mah	The Abracadabra Kid	Fleishman
Don't Let's Go Out With The Dogs	Fuller	The Burn Journals	Runyon
Dawrf	DiDonato	The Circuit	Jimenez
Eleven Rings	Jackson	The Diary of Ma Yan	Yan
Facing The Lion	Lekuton	The Glass Castle	Jeanette Walls
Fighting Fire	Paul	The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid	Bryson
Ghosts of War	Smithson	The Power of Half	Salwen
Gorillas In The Mist	Fossey	The Pregnancy Project	Rodriguez
Hole in My Life	Gantos	The Reading Promise	Ozma
How Angel Peterson Got His Wings	Paulsen	The Skin Between Us	Ragusa
I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree	Hillman	The Warrior's Heart	Greitens
Into the Wild	Krakauer	The Wilder Life	McClure
Into Thin Air	Krakauer	The Year We Disappeared	Busby
King of the Mild Frontier	Crutcher	Thinking in Pictures	Grandin
Learning Joy From Dogs Without Collars	Summer	This Star Won't Go Out	Earl
Life Animated	Suskind	Three Little Words	Rhodes Courter
Marley and Me	Grogan	Throwing Strikes	R.A. Dickie

Mountains Beyond Mountains	Kidder	To Timbuktu	Scieszka
No Summit Out of Sight	Romero	Travels With Charley	Steinbeck
Outcasts United	St. John	Tuesdays With Morrie	Alborn
Persepolis (Graphic)	Statrapo	Tweak	Sheff
Popular	Van Wagenen	Warriors Don't Cry	Beals
Positive	Rawl	We Beat the Street	Sampson e.t al
Red and Me	Russell	We Should Hang Out Sometime	Sundquist