

June 2020

To the members of the Class of 2021 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 that 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 a claim-proof-reason (CPR) 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 effect 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](mailto:kosakowski@nvnet.org) by: July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**HERE ARE SOME MEMOIR IDEAS**

Memoir Title	Author	Memoir Title	Author
<i>After The Wall-<b>Christian Marchisio</b></i>	Schmidt	<i>Swimming to Antarctica-<b>Hanna Yim</b></i>	Cox
<i>A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me-<b>Hugh Higgason</b></i>	Beah	<i>Teen Angst..Naaa...?<b>Mya Garcia</b></i>	Vizzini
<i>A Long Way Gone-<b>Alec Stratton</b></i>	Brierley	<i>The Abracadabra Kid</i>	Fleishman
<i>A Long Way Home-<b>Taddeo Wang</b></i>	Hensel	<i>The Beginning of Everything</i>	Buchanan
<i>An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth-<b>Michael Steffin</b></i>	Hadfield	<i>The Burn Journals-<b>Anouk Person</b></i>	Runyon
<i>Bad Boy-<b>Jason Perira</b></i>	Myers	<i>The Circuit</i>	Jimenez
<i>Beautiful Boy-<b>Alexa Weiss.</b></i>	Sheff	<i>The Closer: Young Reader's Edition</i>	Rivera, Coffeey, Corbett
<i>Boy Erased-<b>Ayo Sowore</b></i>	Conley	<i>The Diary of Latoya Hunter: My First Year in Junior High-<b>Ava Buckley</b></i>	Hunter
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming-<b>Charlie Brennan</b></i>	Woodson	<i>The Diary of Ma Yan</i>	Yan
<i>Candy Freak-<b>Junta Tani</b></i>	Almond	<i>The Glass Castle-<b>Kaitlyn Montello</b></i>	Jeanette Walls
<i>Caught By the Sea-<b>Adam Kaufman</b></i>	Paulsen	<i>The Keeper: A Life of Saving Goals and Keeping them-<b>Ryan Dunne</b></i>	Howard
<i>Chinese Cinderella -<b>Chloe Hoehn</b></i>	Mah	<i>The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid-<b>Liam Paneque</b></i>	Bryson
<i>Don't Let's Go Out With The Dogs</i>	Fuller	<i>The Power of Half</i>	Salwen
<i>Dwarf</i>	DiDonato	<i>The Pregnancy Project-<b>Lisa Nazipov</b></i>	Rodriguez
<i>Eleven Rings</i>	Jackson	<i>The Reading Promise</i>	Ozma
<i>Facing The Lion-<b>Connor Shea</b></i>	Lekuton	<i>The Skin Between Us-<b>Natalia Guerreo</b></i>	Ragusa
<i>Fighting Fire</i>	Paul	<i>The Warrior's Heart</i>	Greitens

<i>Ghosts of War-Alea Zirin</i>	Smithson	<i>The Wilder Life-Alexa Weiss</i>	McClure
<i>Gorillas In The Mist</i>	Fossey	<i>The Year We Disappeared-Sophia Pulver</i>	Busby
<i>Hard to Grip: A Memoir of Youth, Baseball, and Chronic Illness</i>	DeAndreis	<i>Thinking in Pictures</i>	Grandin
<i>Hole in My Life-Josh Chung</i>	Gantos	<i>This is Not a Shirt-Ben Kronfeld</i>	Hundreds
<i>How Angel Peterson Got His Wings</i>	Paulsen	<i>This Star Won't Go Out</i>	Earl
<i>I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree</i>	Hillman	<i>Three Little Words-Rachel Lee</i>	Rhodes Courter
<i>Into the Wild-Dylan Distelburger</i>	Krakauer	<i>Throwing Strikes-Alex Vierheilig</i>	R.A. Dickie
<i>Into Thin Air-Ethan Lopez</i>	Krakauer	<i>To Timbuktu</i>	Scieszka
<i>King of the Mild Frontier</i>	Crutcher	<i>Travels With Charley</i>	Steinbeck
<i>Learning Joy From Dogs Without Collars</i>	Summer	<i>Tuesdays With Morrie-Ronan Topor</i>	Albom
<i>Life Animated-Aiden Hwang</i>	Suskind	<i>Tweak-Fiona Tiscornia</i>	Sheff
<i>Marley and Me-Nathan Rosenblit</i>	Grogan	<i>Warriors Don't Cry-Sotiri Amitsis</i>	Beals
<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains</i>	Kidder	<i>We Beat the Street-Sruthi Vattimilli</i>	Sampson e.t al
<i>My Life in Orange-Chloe Poirot</i>	Guest	<i>We Should Hang Out Sometime-Scarlett Gaard</i>	Sundquist
<i>My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir</i>	Abeel		
<i>No Summit Out of Sight</i>	Romero		
<i>Outcasts United-Max Brickman</i>	St. John		
<i>Persepolis (Graphic)</i>	Statrapo		
<i>PopularSujin Kim</i>	Van Wagenen		
<i>Positive-Noah Chang</i>	Rawl		
<i>Proud-Andrew Zwernerman</i>	Muhammad		
<i>Red and Me-Luana Pascali</i>	Russell		

<i>Red Scarf Girl-Shiri Sobol</i>	Jiang		
<i>Relentless: A Memoir-Marco DeCroce</i>	Edelman		
<i>Relish</i>	Knisley		
<i>Rocket Boys-Lukas Neher</i>	Hickman		
<i>Sharp-Sean Kim</i>	Fitzpatrick		
<i>Soul Surfer-Marisa Samperi</i>	Hamilton		
<i>Stick Figure-Kailey Attali</i>	Gotleib		
<i>Surrender</i>	Zampieri		