

Dear Rising 8th Graders,

Please choose two books from the list below on the second and third page of this document. In addition, I encourage you to choose other books you feel you will enjoy and read as much as you like! Please keep a list of the book titles and the authors of any additional books you read. We will discuss our lists in the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year so that I can understand you better as a reader. I look forward to the coming school year with you!

Please email me with any questions at ahannon5609@stmary11030.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hannon

ELA 8th Grade
Memoir and Memory
2019 Summer Reading Assignment

Instructions

1 -Read two works that are written as autobiographies or memoirs.

2 - As you read please be sure to complete the following:

Take notes - annotate the text by using post-it notes and highlighting important passages and quotes.

3 - Using evidence and quotations from the text choose one of the prompts below and write a two page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 point font) on the following:

A. Compare and contrast two different works. Choose one of the following elements as the focus of your paper and compare and contrast the themes in two different memoirs:

1. How the setting (time, place, etc.) influences and informs the memoirs.
2. The use of imagery and or figurative language used in the two different works. Please include similarities and differences.
3. Differences and similarities in themes among the two different stories you read.

B. Create your own short memoir. Using a memory from childhood and the inspiration you find in a story you read from the book list, please attempt a short narrative of your own experience which can be humorous or serious in nature. Rather than simply retelling the story, imagine ways you can excite potential readers through the use of vivid imagery and language. *This I Believe*

Essays would be a particularly effective read for this assignment. For writing prompt ideas please click on the link below:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/memoir/brainstorm/fromlife.htm>

C. Please feel free to create your own theme or topic if you have an idea for writing not listed. Please be sure to check in with me first via email for approval before you begin writing.

For any book you choose please include a personal critique of the work; what you liked and/or thought could be improved upon in the stories you read.

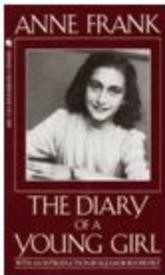
8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

Traits	5	4	3	2	1
Thesis/ Theme	Introduction of thesis is strong, clear and very well-articulated. Main ideas are thoroughly supported by detailed information. The conclusion is very well-developed.	Introduction of thesis is strong, clear and articulate. Main ideas are supported by detailed information. Conclusion is developed.	Introduction of thesis is clear. Main ideas need to be better supported by detailed information. A conclusion is included.	Introduction of thesis is somewhat clear. Very few main ideas are presented, but without being supported by detailed information. Little to no conclusion is included.	Introduction of thesis and main ideas are not clear. No ideas are supported by detailed information. No conclusion is included.
Text Evidence and Quotes	Arguments/points of view are strongly supported with examples from the text and well-placed quotes.	Arguments/points of view are supported with examples from the text and quotes that are placed accurately.	Arguments/points of view are somewhat supported with examples from the text. Quotes need to be placed more accurately.	Arguments/points of view are not well-supported with examples from the text. Quotes are inaccurately placed.	No arguments or points of view are presented. No use of quotes or text evidence.
Analysis	Strong point of view presented with substantial reasoning and examples.	Assertive point of view is presented with more than sufficient reasoning and examples.	Point of view is presented with appropriate reasoning and examples.	Point of view presented with some reasoning and few examples.	No point of view presented with reasoning and examples.
Word Choice	Very vivid words and phrases are included. The choice and placement of words is accurate and natural.	Vivid words and phrases are used. Most of the choices and placements of words are accurate and natural.	Some vivid words and phrases are used. Some of the choices and placements of words are inaccurate and unnatural.	Lack of vivid words and phrases are used. Most of the choices and placements of words are inaccurate and unnatural.	Very limited vocabulary is used without the use of vivid words and phrases.

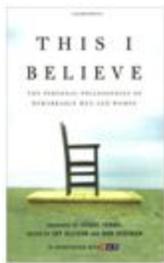
Grammar, Mechanics and Spelling	No errors are made in grammar, mechanics or spelling.	Very few errors are made in grammar, mechanics or spelling.	Some errors are made in grammar, mechanics or spelling. The errors do not interfere with the cohesive structure of the essay.	Many errors are made in grammar, mechanics or spelling. The errors interfere with the cohesive structure of the essay.	Numerous errors are made in grammar, mechanics or spelling. The errors severely interfere with the cohesive structure of the essay.
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Book Suggestions

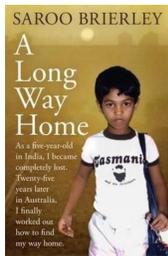
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank



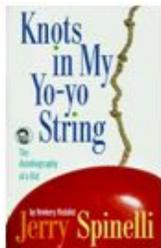
NPR: This I Believe Essays



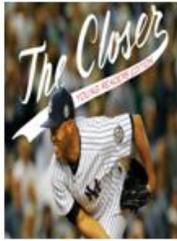
A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley



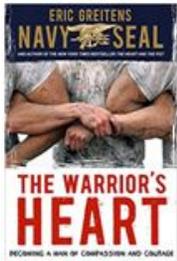
Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid by Jerry Spinelli



The Closer: Young Readers Edition by Mariano Rivera



The Warrior's Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage by Eric Greitens



Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-Li Jiang

