

Spring-Ford High School
Academic English 10 World Literature
Summer Reading 2019

Purpose

Our goal for you this summer is for you to find a text that challenges your understanding of the world, and transports you. Your goal will be first and foremost, to select a text that you find intriguing. We have provided summaries of the texts below. It is your job to evaluate the topics you are interested in and determine which texts will most help you achieve our goals.

Once you have selected and found a copy of your text, please begin reading. Turn off your phone, television, and eliminate all other distractions because unless you give yourself a fair chance to understand and interact with the text, you will not be transported.

Due to the extremity of the situations through which the writers of the memoirs survive, sensitive content (such as drug use, war, and violence) are included in their tales. Before choosing a memoir, please read the review so you can decide whether you are comfortable with the content.

Standard Targets

Reading Literature

1.3.9-10.B Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly and implicitly.

1.3.9-10.D Determine the point of view of the text and analyze the impact the point of view has on the meaning of the text.

Writing

1.4.9-10.S Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research, applying grade-level reading standards for literature and literary nonfiction.

1.4.9-10.W Avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation.

Summer Reading Options with Published Book Reviews-- Choose ONE text

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
COUNTRY: Sierra Leone

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

Lights Out: A Cuban Memoir of Betrayal and Survival by Dania Rosa Nasca

COUNTRY: Cuba

Dania was eleven the first time she meets a Judas Goat, a chivato. Likened to the goats that lead animals to the slaughter, the informants of communist Cuba would do anything to please the authorities. This one has his ear almost pressed against her neighbor's door. As an adult, Dania reflects on the chivato who terrified her. The incident sticks in her mind, and it isn't the only danger she encounters under communist rule. Suspicion and fear will follow.

Dania chronicles Fidel Castro's rise to power and the truth behind the dictator. His fascination with Hitler, Mussolini, and other fascists lead to a totalitarian state of sorrow and pain. At the same time, she shows a deep love and respect for the history and culture of Cuba. *Lights Out* combines the childhood intimacy...with... hard-hitting historical accuracy and relevance... Castro was determined to erase the past, but *Lights Out* is a monument to the Cuba before Castro.

****An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography*** by Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner

COUNTRY: Rwanda

As Rwanda was thrown into chaos during the 1994 genocide, Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, turned the luxurious Hotel Milles Collines into a refuge for more than 1,200 Tutsi and moderate Hutu refugees, while fending off their would-be killers with a combination of diplomacy and deception. In *An Ordinary Man*, he tells the story of his childhood, retraces his accidental path to heroism, revisits the 100 days in which he was the only thing standing between his "guests" and a hideous death, and recounts his subsequent life as a refugee and activist.

Rusesabagina clung to his confidence in the power of language. Even when the streets were littered with corpses, he patiently continued talking until each killer in front of him turned into just a man, open to making a deal.

Toward the end of *An Ordinary Man*, Rusesabagina resigns himself to the fact that he cannot fully answer his children's questions about what the history of the genocide means. "The only thing I am able to do is keep talking to them," he writes. It's a neat distillation of Rusesabagina's philosophy: evil remains in the world, but an ongoing discussion will keep us grounded.

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Luong Ung

COUNTRY: Cambodia

One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed.

First They Killed My Father is harrowing yet hopeful. Loung's powerful story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality.

****I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*** by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

COUNTRY: Pakistan

"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday." When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *I am Malala* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

*The memoirs *An Ordinary Man* and *I Am Malala* include social, historical, and political context that will be taught and discussed 3rd and 4th quarters. Choosing one of these novels will definitely help you with the curriculum!

Assignment Directions:

1. Read the text in its entirety.
2. All activities must be COMPLETED INDEPENDENTLY.
3. Bring your text and your activities on the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for submission.

English 10 teachers strongly advise that you type your responses using double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font (MLA format). During the first week of school, you will be submitting to turnitin.com, which requires typed responses. If you do not have access to a computer, please write legibly.

1. PERSONAL REFLECTION:

First, choose **two quotes** which affected your understanding of the world; and **explain why the quotes have changed your perspective**. Each explanation should be at least 5 sentences in length. You must **choose quotes from two different sections of the memoir**. Cite the quote and reference what was happening in the memoir at that time.

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Underneath your quote selection and explanation, write **a letter to the author about your changed perspective of the world.** Your letter should include commentary on the author's choice to write the memoir and your own reaction to what you read. Be sure to include details about yourself, how you viewed the world *before* you read the memoir, and how you view the world after you read it. Start with a greeting and end with your name. Your letter should be at least 10 sentences in length.

When using a quote, be sure to cite that quote in MLA format; include the author's last name and page number in parenthesis.

EXAMPLE: of an in-text citation for *Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini:

QUOTE 1: "Her life had been marked by tragedy, but she instantly recognized this familiar face from the past. And then she was running" (Hosseini 327). This quote occurs when the main character.... This affected the way I looked at the world because...

Your assignment will be submitted to turnitin.com to check for originality against current papers and all papers submitted in previous years. **PLEASE be sure to complete the assignment ON YOUR OWN.**