

LWA Upper School English Department **2019 Summer Reading Assignment**

Summer reading is an opportunity to explore, enjoy and enhance your literary repertoire. The English Department is asking you to create this experience for yourself this summer: You're choosing your summer readings! Perhaps you're intrigued by: classic novels, bestsellers, books that you've heard about or that have been on your "someday" list, or topics in nonfiction or people's life experiences that you want to know better from biographies or autobiographies. The point is: You choose them, you own them, and you respond to them. Please follow the Requirements Checklist when making your selections.

**** Note:** **AP Lang** and **Honors American Lit** students have an additional assignment.

Possible Resources for Choosing Texts:

- www.teenreads.com, especially in the "Ultimate Reading List" section
- [*Reading Lists for College-Bound Students*](#) by Doug Estell, ISBN #978-0136352518
- [*The New York Times Book Review*](#)

Requirements Checklist:

- Choose at least **three** book-length texts to read; these must be novels, nonfiction, or story collections, at least 150 pages each. [NO graphic novels. NO texts you've already read.]
- Create a Dialectical Journal (handwritten or typed) for each text you read.
 - Title each journal with the book's title and author. For each journal, create a two-column table like the examples shown on the next page. Label the LEFT column "Passages from the Text." Label the RIGHT column "Comments."
 - Choose lines or passages from the text that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling.
 - Quote a line or passage in the LEFT column. Include the page number.
 - Enter your comments about that line or passage in the RIGHT column.
 - Create a minimum of four entries per text.
 - Be sure to include lines or passages from **THROUGHOUT** each text.
 - Include at least two "Higher Level Responses" per text. (See p. 2)
 - The comments must be **ENTIRELY YOUR OWN, ORIGINAL WORK.**
- Bring your books AND your Dialectical Journals to English class on Thursday, September 5th—the first day of school.
- Be prepared to write about and discuss your book.

****TURN OVER TO p. 2 FOR HOW TO WRITE RESPONSES****

How to Write Responses:

“Basic Responses”

- Give your personal reactions to the line or passage
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

Sample “Basic Response” Dialectical Journal entry: *All American Boys* by Reynolds and Kiely

Passages from the text	Comments
“At practice, Coach had us running like crazy. Hales got so winded he puked in the trash can by the door to the hallway. [. . .] The rest of us crouched with our hands on our knees, or folded on our heads, trying to avoid cramps, and Coach paced in between us like he was a doctor walking through the asthma ward.” (172)	This passage reminds me of a time in my own life when my soccer coach was really hard on us and made us run all day. I especially like when the author compares the coach to a doctor on an asthma ward, because I remember how hard everyone was breathing on the day my soccer coach made us run so much.

“Higher Level Responses”

- Analyze the text for use of literary devices (word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, imagery, tone/mood)
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc...)
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the text as a whole

Sample “Higher Level” Dialectical Journal entry: *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O’Brien

Passages from the text	Comments
“--they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders--and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry.” (2)	The author chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. The quoted sentence sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty--things they had to carry--in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.

Questions? Email rroberts@lawrencewoodmere.org, lmaffei@lawrencewoodmere.org, or mcicillini@lawrencewoodmere.org