

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>A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me</i>	Schmidt	<i>Relish</i>	Knisley
<i>A Long Way Gone</i>	Beah	<i>Rocket Boys</i>	Hickman
<i>After The Wall</i>	Hensel	<i>Sharp</i>	Fitzpatrick
<i>Bad Boy</i>	Myers	<i>Soul Surfer</i>	Hamilton
<i>Beautiful Boy</i>	Sheff	<i>Stick Figure</i>	Gotleib
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Woodson	<i>Swimming to Antarctica</i>	Cox
<i>Candy Freak</i>	Almond	<i>Teen Angst..Naaa...?</i>	Vizzini
<i>Caught By the Sea</i>	Paulsen	<i>The Abracadabra Kid</i>	Fleishman
<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>	Mah	<i>The Burn Journals</i>	Runyon
<i>Don't Let's Go Out With The Dogs</i>	Fuller	<i>The Circuit</i>	Jimenez
<i>Dawrf</i>	DiDonato	<i>The Closer: Young Reader's Edition</i>	Rivera, Coffeey, Corbett
<i>Eleven Rings</i>	Jackson	<i>The Diary of Ma Yan</i>	Yan
<i>Facing The Lion</i>	Lekuton	<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeanette Walls
<i>Fighting Fire</i>	Paul	<i>The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid</i>	Bryson
<i>Ghosts of War</i>	Smithson	<i>The Power of Half</i>	Salwen
<i>Gorillas In The Mist</i>	Fossey	<i>The Pregnancy Project</i>	Rodriguez
<i>Hard to Grip: A Memoir of Youth, Baseball, and Chronic Illness</i>	DeAndreis	<i>The Reading Promise</i>	Ozma
<i>Hole in My Life</i>	Gantos	<i>The Skin Between Us</i>	Ragusa
<i>How Angel Peterson Got His Wings</i>	Paulsen	<i>The Warrior's Heart</i>	Greitens
<i>I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree</i>	Hillman	<i>The Wilder Life</i>	McClure
<i>Into the Wild</i>	Krakauer	<i>The Year We Disappeared</i>	Busby
<i>Into Thin Air</i>	Krakauer	<i>Thinking in Pictures</i>	Grandin

<i>King of the Mild Frontier</i>	Crutcher	<i>This Star Won't Go Out</i>	Earl
<i>Learning Joy From Dogs Without Collars</i>	Summer	<i>Three Little Words</i>	Rhodes Courter
<i>Life Animated</i>	Suskind	<i>Throwing Strikes</i>	R.A. Dickie
<i>Marley and Me</i>	Grogan	<i>To Timbuktu</i>	Scieszka
<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains</i>	Kidder	<i>Travels With Charley</i>	Steinbeck
<i>My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir</i>	Abeel	<i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i>	Albom
<i>No Summit Out of Sight</i>	Romero	<i>Tweak</i>	Sheff
<i>Outcasts United</i>	St. John	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	Beals
<i>Persepolis (Graphic)</i>	Statrapo	<i>We Beat the Street</i>	Sampson e.t al
<i>Popular</i>	Van Wagenen	<i>We Should Hang Out Sometime</i>	Sundquist
<i>Positive</i>	Rawl		
<i>Proud</i>	Muhammad		
<i>Red and Me</i>	Russell		
<i>Red Scarf Girl</i>	Jiang		
<i>Relentless: A Memoir</i>	Edelman		