



# Addison Trail High School

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Dear Sophomore Honors Student:

Congratulations on your decision and determination to take English 10 honors. To help channel your intellectual energy over the summer and to prepare yourself for class, it is important for you to complete the following reading assignment. You will be expected to **purchase and annotate** one book as instructed below and to write three journal responses. You can also check out the book from a library and use post-it notes

**Step 1: Choose a book.** We are allowing you to choose a non-fiction text for your summer reading. We compiled a list of selections that cover a broad range of topics with a diverse group of authors. Please choose one of the following texts:

- *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore examines the circumstances and choices of two men who have arrived at very different points in their lives; one is incarcerated for life, while the second grows up to become a respected government official. As you read this book, you will need to be careful to keep track of which Wes is featured.
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls is a memoir of Walls' dysfunctional childhood growing up with nomadic parents moving all over the southwest. She suffered poverty and famine. As you read this book, you will need to focus on the author's journey and how she tells her story.
- *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach is a scientific examination of cadavers over the centuries, and how they have been used in a variety of tests and experiments including the guillotine and crash tests.
- *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmeal Beah is a story of a child's journey through Sierra Leone in the 90s when rebels left the land unrecognizable by violence. Beah was picked up by the government and forced to become a boy soldier and wield an AK-47. Eventually, he was released from the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center where he struggled to reenter the world of civilians.
- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover describes the life of a young girl homeschooled in a conservative Mormon family and her journey to achieving a doctorate from Oxford University. This memoir does detail some powerful examples of domestic abuse and uses racial slurs in one chapter.
- *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* by Dashka Slater explores the topics of race, gender, class, and identity. Slater, who grew up and lived in Oakland, tells this true story about two different kids from two very different parts of the city. Richard, an African American boy, sets fire to a sleeping gender-non-conforming white teen named Sasha. This text contains some graphic scenes and language.
- *The Other Side of The Sky: A Memoir* by Farah Ahmedi and Tamim Ansary chronicles her journey from war to peace. Equal parts tragedy and hope, determination and daring, this memoir delivers a remarkably vivid portrait of Ahmedi's girlhood in Kabul, where gunfire and the sight of falling bombs shaped her life and stole her family.
- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakaur details the author's expedition to Mount Everest during the 1996 Mount Everest Disaster where eight climbers were killed and several other climbers were stranded.

## Achieving The Highest Standards

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**Step 3: Read and annotate the book!** Please annotate your books or use post-its to mark unfamiliar vocabulary (circle). You are also expected to make margin notes on the individuals mentioned and important developments in their lives, themes, connections to other literature or life, and, of course, questions. Questions may be parts that confuse you or questions for discussion. You will be expected to have this book in class during the first week of school. If using an e-book, please make sure annotations are on a separate piece of paper. Solely audiobooks are prohibited.

**Step 4: Assignment** We are asking you to write a series of reader-response journals that you submit by Friday, September 1, 2022, on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Divide the book into three equal parts for these entries. You will complete a minimum of three journal entries (about 1 page each) on the following topics:

1. **After reading the first ¼ of the book:** Select a passage that stood out and analyze it. **Do NOT tell us what the passage is about.** Instead, analyze its purpose to the book, why it stood out to you, and why the author wrote it the way he/she/they did. Cite the page number at the top of the journal entry and spend NO MORE than three sentences summarizing the passage then answer the questions aforementioned. The entry should be approximately 1 page.
2. **After reading the second ½ of the book:** Select one of the main people discussed in the book and define them using two strong adjectives. Support your definition(s) with textual evidence from the middle section of the book. Again, this should be about a page (1 paragraph per adjective with at least 2 pieces of evidence PER adjective).
3. **After finishing the book:** Suggest a one-two word motif (love, teamwork, perseverance, making choices, perspective, etc) and analyze its development throughout the text. Make sure to use textual evidence (at least 2 quotes) supporting your ideas. In other words, in 1-2 words, what is this book about and why? The entry should be approximately 1 page.

We are looking forward to working with you in the fall and hope you will enjoy the summer selections. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to email. Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,



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