



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, keep 5 independent reading logs, and write 2 in class responses. You can also check out the book from our AT LMC or the Addison Public Library. You will need the book for the first two weeks of the school year as well.

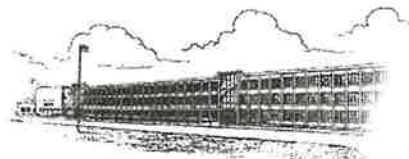
Step 1: Choose a book. We are allowing you to choose a non-fiction text for your summer reading. We compiled a list of selections that cover a broad range of topics with a diverse group of authors. Please choose one of the following texts:

- *A Long Way Gone by Ishmeal Beah* is a 2007 memoir written by Beah, an author from Sierra Leone. The book is a firsthand account of Beah's time as a child soldier during the Sierra Leone Civil War in the 1990s. He describes a story of a young, innocent boy who is corrupted by a devastating war.
- *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.
- *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.

Please no e-books or audiobooks; students will be required to bring their hard copy to class.

Step 2: Read and complete 5 Independent Reading Logs. It is easiest to take the total number of pages of your book and divide it by 5 to know where you can stop to do an entry. Instructions and formatting for the journals are on the attached paper
-Due Friday, August 21st.

Achieving The Highest Standards



Step 3: Assignment: After Wednesday, August 19, IN CLASS we will ask you to write a series of reader-response short answers (approximately 1 page each). You will be allowed to bring your book to use on the short answers, but you are not allowed to bring outside notes/printouts. Therefore, you will be required to bring your book into class on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Remember, it should be annotated with hand notes or sticky notes. Please consider the following questions:

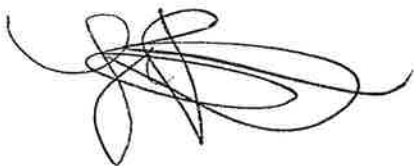
1. **Definition:** Select one of the main people discussed in the book and define them using strong adjectives. Support your definition(s) with textual evidence from the book.
2. **Theme/Motif:** Suggest a one-two word motif (love, teamwork, perseverance, making choices, perspective, etc) and analyze its development throughout the text. Make sure to use textual evidence supporting your ideas. In other words, in 1-2 words, what is this book about and why?

A NOTE on using AI for your logs. Using AI for this assignment is strictly prohibited. You may be asked to submit your logs to turnitin.com. If AI is detected, it is an automatic zero for the assignment and parent/guardian will be contacted.

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,

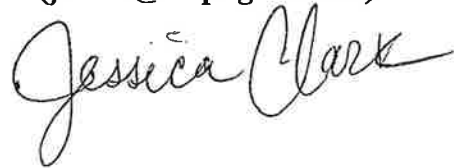
Mr. Lucas Brennan
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Mrs. Lindsey Thomas-Cushman
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Reading Journals (5)

Name:

Author:

Book:

| Page #s, and Chapters | Paragraph Summary (6-8 sentences) | Paragraph Interaction/ Reaction (4-6 sentences) Opinions on characters? Real world connection? Identify Figurative Language? Theme connections? Author's style? |
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If your book is a movie, please write 2 paragraphs comparing and contrasting the two.

