

2022 PHS Grade 9 Honors Genre Studies Summer Reading Assignment #1

Incoming 9th grade Honors Genre Studies students are required to read **two books** this summer. **Honors** students must choose a **Non-Fiction** book on this list and take notes (**1-2 pages handwritten**) which will be used during an **in-class assessment** during the first or second week of school. As you read your chosen nonfiction book, take notes on the elements listed below. Your notes must include page numbers so that you will be able to locate your textual evidence efficiently during the in-class assessment. The goal is to analyze, not summarize! All work must be original; you must **NOT** present ideas from another source or classmate as your own.

**** Notes will be collected by the teacher for credit.**

Focus on the following elements for your summer note-taking assignment:

- setting
- characterization
- conflict
- symbolism
- figurative language (foreshadowing, imagery, tone, flashback, etc.)
- motif
- theme

You should also look for quotes that seem significant, thought provoking, or puzzling and mark them with Post-Its or highlight them in the book. For example, you might record:

- o Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- o Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- o A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- o Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- o Events you find surprising or confusing
- o Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

Grade 9 Honors Genre Studies Summer Reading Non-Fiction Titles

**** As this is a list aimed at high school level students, some of the books address mature ideas and issues. Please preview the books before making your selections so that you are not surprised by the content.**

***Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* by Elizabeth Partridge**

It's the personal stories of eight people—six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee—that create the heartbeat of *Boots on the Ground*. From dense jungles and terrifying firefights to chaotic helicopter rescues and harrowing escapes, each individual experience reveals a different facet of the war and moves us forward in time. Alternating with these chapters are profiles of key American leaders and events, reminding us of all that was happening at home during the war, including peace protests, presidential scandals, and veterans' struggles to acclimate to life after Vietnam.

***All Souls: A Family Story from Southie* by Michael Patrick MacDonald** A breakaway bestseller since its first printing, *All Souls* takes us deep into Michael Patrick MacDonald's Southie, the proudly insular neighborhood with the highest concentration of white poverty in America. Rocked by Whitey Bulger's crime schemes and busing riots, MacDonald's Southie is populated by sharply hewn characters like his Ma, a mini skirted, accordion-playing single mother who endures the deaths of four of her eleven children. Nearly suffocated by his grief and his community's code of silence, MacDonald tells his family story here with gritty but moving honesty.

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah**

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 and survived.

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah**

In *Chinese Cinderella*, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family.

***Burn Down the Ground: A Memoir* by Kambri Crews**

In this powerful, affecting, and unflinching memoir, a daughter looks back on her unconventional childhood with deaf parents in rural Texas while trying to reconcile it to her present life—one in which her father is serving a twenty-year sentence in a maximum-security prison. *Burn Down the Ground* is a brilliant portrait of living in two worlds—one hearing, the other deaf; one under the laid-back Texas sun, the other within the energetic pulse of New York City; one mired in violence, the other rife with possibility—and heralds the arrival of a captivating new voice.

***The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown**

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world.

***Fierce: How Competing for Myself Changed Everything* by Aly Raisman**

Discover Aly Raisman's inspiring story of dedication, perseverance, and learning to think positive even in the toughest times on her path to gold medal success in two Olympic Games--and beyond. Aly's road to success was full of hard work, perseverance, and victories, but not without its hardships. Aly faced many obstacles, from naysayers who said she'd never make it in gymnastics to classmates who shamed her for her athletic body to a devastating betrayal of trust. Through it all, Aly surrounded herself with supportive family, friends, and teammates and found the inner strength to remain positive and believe in herself. Now, in her own words, Aly shows what it takes to be a champion on and off the floor, and takes readers on a behind-the-scenes journey before, during, and after her remarkable achievements in two Olympic Games--through her highest highs, lowest lows, and all the moments in between.

***Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD* by Allison Britz**

Until sophomore year of high school, fifteen-year-old Allison Britz lived a comfortable life in an idyllic town. She was a dedicated student with tons of extracurricular activities, friends, and loving parents at home. But after awakening from a vivid nightmare in which she was diagnosed with brain cancer, she was convinced the dream had been a warning. Allison believed that she must do something to stop the cancer in her dream from becoming a reality. Unable to act "normal," the once-popular Allison became an outcast. Finally, she allowed herself to ask for help and was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. This brave memoir tracks Allison's descent and ultimately hopeful climb out of the depths.

***Eleven Seconds* by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift**

In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life.

***Hidden Girl* by Shyima Hall**

Shyima Hall was born in Egypt on September 29, 1989, the seventh child of desperately poor parents. When she was eight, her parents sold her into slavery. Shyima then moved two hours away to Egypt's capital city of Cairo to live with a wealthy family and serve them eighteen hours a day, seven days a week. When she was ten, her captors moved to Orange County, California, and smuggled Shyima with them. Two years later, an anonymous call from a neighbor brought about the end of Shyima's servitude—but her journey to true freedom was far from over. (GoodReads)

***Hey Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka**

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along. Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father. *Hey, Kiddo* is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

2021 PHS Grade 9 Honors Genre Studies Summer Reading Assignment #2

*Incoming 9th grade Honors Genre Studies must also read the novella Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck and take notes which can be used during an **in-class assessment** during the first or second week of school. As you read Steinbeck's novella and take notes, keep in mind the motifs listed below. Your notes (**1-2 pages handwritten**) must include page numbers so that you will be able to locate your textual evidence efficiently during the in-class assessment. Stay focused on the motifs listed below rather than merely summarizing the novella. The goal is to analyze, not summarize! All work must be original; you must NOT present ideas from another source or classmate as your own.*

**** Notes will be collected by the teacher for credit.**

Focus on the following motifs for your summer note-taking assignment:

- Individualism
- Loneliness
- Violence
- Friendship
- Discrimination/Prejudice (including race and gender)
- American Dream
- Sacrifice