

To: Students Taking Eng3AP
From: Mr. Gottilla
Re: Summer Reading

For many years I have placed on a wall in my classroom a quotation from the Greek philosopher Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

A summer reading requirement is not meant to enforce occasional and involuntary acts of reading but, instead, to encourage the habit of reading—a habit that will serve you better than expensive test-prep courses, last-minute cramming, and other such shortcuts to success. Don't settle for these substitutes. Instead, read willingly and often; read more than just what's required.

Required:

Two books: *1984* by George Orwell (I would choose the least expensive edition, which is Signet Classics.)

Black Boy by Richard Wright (Again, I would choose the least expensive edition, which appears to be Perennial Classics, published by Harper.)

Annotate, as illustrated on the accompanying sheets, these two books. *1984* is divided into three parts; the parts contain a total of twenty-four sections. On average, you should provide three annotations per section. *Black Boy* is divided into twenty chapters; on average, provide three annotations per chapter. In addition, select from each book one page that you judge to be of particular significance and annotate it thoroughly with responses to its content and style.

One work of nonfiction from the following list:

Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science by Atul Gawande

All But My Life, A Memoir by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Why Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride

Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls by Mary Pipher

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Loung Ung

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

You will complete one of the following projects on this book.

A Mixed Media Collage

A collage is a visual representation of images—a creation of art, not random pictures stuck on paper. Find a minimum of 20 photos, drawings, pictures, words, phrases, and objects that reflect your connection to and understanding of the work and its themes. Assemble these items in an artistic manner. Avoid a rectangular poster board; instead, choose a shape that may relate to the book or your reaction to it. No uncovered space, please. On a separate sheet of paper, write brief explanations (about three sentences) for every image, word, or object on your collage and its relevance to the book.

Interview

Create an interview between you, the reader, and the author of the book. It should be professional in nature and reveal some of the book's major themes, concerns, and interesting stories or anecdotes. Either videotape it or provide two written copies for a classroom performance. Aim for four to five minutes.

Dramatization

Adapt an important scene (or two) from the book into a play. Pay attention to dialogue and stage directions. Either videotape it or provide a sufficient number of written copies for a classroom performance. Aim for four to five minutes.

Speech

Write a speech that the author would give if he or she were to visit Union Catholic. Deliver it (memorization is not required) either live in class or electronically. The minimum time is three minutes.

Mobile

Using a minimum of ten three-dimensional images, create a mobile that demonstrates an understanding of the major themes of the book. On a separate sheet of paper, write brief explanations (about four sentences) for each.

Painting

This painting on canvas represents a symbolic image or images of the main theme(s) of the book. It must be accompanied by a 250-word written explanation of the painting.

Poetry/Diary

Write a minimum of three poems and three diary entries that come from the mind and experiences of the author of the book. Write as the author would write. The diary entries must each be at least one page, not typed, and reflective of the author.

Timeline

Construct a timeline (chronological, obviously) of ten of the author's experiences. Provide details about five of them (about fifty words each) and five explanations (again about fifty words each) of why these stand out as important, serious, or revelatory.

Cover Story

Create a magazine cover story based on the book. Choose a specific magazine to write for. Is it a *Newsweek* or a *TV Guide*? Is it aimed at older adults or teenagers? Include at least one visual for the cover and a minimum of 500 words of text. Try to write appropriately in the style of the particular magazine.

And one final quotation. In his autobiography *Anonymously Yours*, author Richard Peck writes, "I read because one life isn't enough...."