10th Grade Summer Reading

Choose one work of fiction and one work of non-fiction from the lists below and complete the assignment below. The reading journal will be handed in during the first week of classes and will count as a quiz grade.

Assignment - Reading Journal
Directions:
  a) On looseleaf, keep track of your reading and your responses to each book read.
  b) Date each entry, keep track of how many pages you have read and record your responses.
    • Journal can be typed or hand-written.
    • 25-word minimum per entry
    • A minimum of one entry per chapter. There is no limit on how much you can write.

The following sentence openers will help you choose a focus for your entries.

• I can't really understand…
• I was surprised…
• I wonder why…
• I’m confused by…
• I began to think of…
• I understand the feeling…
• I can’t believe…
• I love the way the author…
• I noticed…
• I’m not certain, but maybe…
• I was motivated to read these pages because…
• I found it difficult to focus on the reading because…
• I figured out that…
• Now I understand why…
• ______ is a character who…
• I hope…
• I’m frustrated by the way…
• This reminds me of another work of literature, ______…
• I think I’m going to have to remember…

**Fiction** - Choose one work from this list.

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams
Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Aliens snatch Dent from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue.
Rebecca, by Daphne DuMaurier
This is a novel of mystery and passion, a dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves, and an estate called Manderley that is as much a present as the humans who inhabit it.

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien
Encountering ruthless trolls, beastly orcs, gigantic spiders, and hungry wolves, the hobbit Bilbo Baggins discovers within himself astonishing strength and courage. And, at the ultimate confrontation with the fearsome dragon Smaug, the hobbit braves the dangers of dark and dragon fire alone and unaided. This story is the prequel to Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings trilogy.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Arthur Conan Doyle
From “A Scandal in Bohemia,” in which Sherlock Holmes is famously outwitted by a woman, the captivating Irene Adler, to “The Five Orange Pips,” in which the master detective is pitted against the Ku Klux Klan, to “The Final Problem,” in which Holmes and his archenemy, Professor Moriarty, face each other in a showdown at the Reichenbach Falls, the stories that appear in The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes bear witness to the flowering of author Arthur Conan Doyle’s genius.

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens
Dickens painted a vivid picture of the French Revolution with melodrama set on a background of villainy and violence, built on the coincidence of an Englishman and a Frenchman who look alike. Dickens created a moving tale. In the end, a dissolute man, raised by a woman's love, becomes the hero.

The Dark is Rising, by Susan Meyer
In this book, Will Stanton begins to have strange experiences on his eleventh birthday, just before Christmas. He soon learns he is one of the Old Ones, a guardian and warrior for The Light. He learns that he must help find the four Things of Power for The Light in order to battle the forces of The Dark. The first of these Things of Power is the Circle of Six Signs. This book is the key book for the main character, Will Stanton. It is in this book that he collects the six signs, which become the Circle of Signs, one of the Things of Power, by finding the additional five mandalas (he has been given one earlier) and uses the completed Circle to ward off the forces of The Dark.

Cat’s Eye, by Margaret Atwood
Controversial painter Elaine Risley vividly reflects on her childhood and teenage years. Her strongest memories are of Cordelia, who was the leader of a trio of girls who were both very cruel and very kind to young Elaine, in ways that tint Elaine’s perceptions of relationships and her world—not to mention her art—into the character’s middle years. The novel unfolds in Canada in the mid-20th century, from World War II to the late 1980s, and includes a look at many of the cultural elements of that time, including feminism and various modern art movements. This book was a finalist for the 1988 Governor General’s Award.

Non-Fiction - Choose one work from this list.

Shout: The Beatles in Their Generation, by Phillip Norman
Journalist and novelist Norman (Rave On: The Biography of Buddy Holly) here updates and revises his 1981 Beatles biography, which sold 125,000 copies. The book now includes information on Paul McCartney’s and Ringo Starr’s recent activities, details the tragic end of George Harrison’s life, and seeks to present a more objective view of the contributions made by each Beatle (the 1981 edition was decidedly anti-McCartney). Norman also includes new insight into the complex relationship between John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the result of several interviews with Ono in recent years. While Norman’s revision still seems a tad harsh on Harrison as a guitarist and McCartney as a human being, it is the most balanced, detailed, and highly analytical of the popular biographies of the Beatles. Priced to find its way
into the home libraries of Beatles fans, this is also well worth purchasing as a replacement by libraries owning the first edition. From "Library Journal."

**Down and Out in London and Paris,** by George Orwell
What was a nice Eton boy like Eric Blair doing in scummy slums instead of being upwardly mobile at Oxford or Cambridge? Living Down and Out in Paris and London, repudiating respectable imperialist society, and reinventing himself as George Orwell. His 1933 debut book (ostensibly a novel, but overwhelmingly autobiographical) was rejected by that elitist publisher T.S. Eliot, perhaps because its close-up portrait of lowlife was too pungent for comfort. In Paris, Orwell lived in verminous rooms and washed dishes at the overpriced "Hotel X," in a remarkably filthy, 110-degree kitchen. He met "eccentric people--people who have fallen into solitary, half-mad grooves of life and given up trying to be normal or decent." Though Orwell's tone is that of an outraged reformer, it's surprising how entertaining many of his adventures are: gnawing poverty only enlivens the imagination, and the wild characters he met often swindled each other and themselves. The wackiest tale involves a miser who ate cats, wore newspapers for underwear, invested 6,000 francs in cocaine, and hid it in a face-powder tin when the cops raided. They had to free him because the apparently controlled substance turned out to be face powder instead of cocaine. In London, Orwell studied begging with a crippled expert named Bozo, a great storyteller, and philosopher. Orwell devotes a chapter to the fine points of London guttersnipe slang. Years later, he would put his lexical bent to work by inventing Newspeak, and drawing on his down-and-out experience to evoke the plight of the Proles in 1984. Though marred by hints of unexamined anti-Semitism, Orwell's debut remains, as The Nation put it, "the most lucid portrait of poverty in the English language." --Tim Appelo

**Blame My Brain,** by Nicola Morgan
From the Q & A with author Nicola Morgan.
Q: What is it (**Blame My Brain**) about?
A: What's going on in your head. Why. Why it's important. How long it will last?
And what you can do.
Q: What's so interesting about that? It's just a brain.
A: Yes, but there's fantastic new research into the teenage brain and what scientists have discovered in the last few years will amaze you. And reassure you. And amaze and reassure your parents.

**The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure,** by Hans Magnus Enzenberger
Bad dreams plague Robert until a mysterious creature called the Number Devil appears to him one night. Robert, who hates everything to do with numbers, thinks it just another nightmare, but, surprisingly, finds himself fascinated by the intricacies of mathematics as taught by the exacting but always enthusiastic Devil. In a series of 12 dreams, Robert (and the reader) are introduced to ever more complex theories, from different kinds of infinity to triangular numbers. In Number Hell/Number Heaven, Robert and the Devil meet famous mathematicians of the past and Robert is inducted into the ranks of number apprentices. Surreal touches (numbers flying in the air, floating in a swimming pool), fanciful names for mathematical terms (prima-donna numbers for prime numbers) and problems posed directly to the reader contribute to the playful tone. The generous and strategic use of color, however, provides the biggest boost: even mathematical equations look festive here, hand-printed in warm muted tones. The string of mathematical concepts may well daunt many readers, unused to a novel of ideas, particularly because the reasoning behind several of the "tricks" demonstrated by the Devil is not fully explained. However, for certain kinds of readers (chess players & puzzle enthusiasts) this will be a favorite.

**Beethoven's Hair,** by Russell Martin
A well-publicized 1994 Sotheby's auction listed, among other musical artifacts and ephemera on the block, a lock of Beethoven's hair. The high bidders for the hair, two Beethoven enthusiasts, were easy enough to identify by their oddball names: one was a doctor named Che Guevara, the other a retired real estate developer named Ira Brilliant. But the real story is how did the lock end up on the auction block? More importantly, can we learn anything from a 175-year-old
snippet of hair? Russell Martin has created a rich historical treasure hunt, an Indiana Jones-like tale of false leads, amazing breakthroughs, and incredible revelations. This unique and fascinating book is a moving testament to the power of music, the lure of relics, the heroism of the Resistance movement, and the brilliance of forensic science.

**Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations**, by Georgiana Howell
She was an English writer, traveler, political officer, administrator in Arabia, and an archaeologist who explored, mapped, and became highly important to British imperial policy-making due to her extensive travels in Greater Syria, Syria, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, and Arabia. She was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1917. Bell, along with T. E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), helped establish the Hashemite dynasties in Jordan as well as in Iraq. She played a major role in establishing and helping administer the modern state of Iraq utilizing her unique perspectives from her travels and relations with tribal leaders throughout the Middle East. During her lifetime, she was highly beloved and trusted by British officials and given an immense amount of power for a woman at that time.

**The House of Windsor**, by Andrew Roberts
The fifth volume in a five-volume History of England, The House of Windsor has at its center insights into and biographies of England during the tumultuous twentieth century. The book traces the lives of monarchs of living memory and near past, from George V to the current Elizabeth the Second.

In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne disease are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.

**Angela's Ashes**, by Frank McCourt
Born in Brooklyn in 1930 to recent Irish immigrants Malachy and Angela McCourt, Frank grew up in Limerick after his parents returned to Ireland because of poor prospects in America. It turns out that prospects weren't so great back in the old country either. Mix in abject poverty, frequent death, and illness, and you have all the makings of a difficult early life. Fortunately, in McCourt's able hands, it also has all the makings for a compelling memoir.

**Go Ask Alice**, by an anonymous author
A book, presented in diary form, about a teenage girl who develops a drug addiction at age 15 and runs away from home on a journey of self-destructive escapism.

**Zlata’s Diary**, by Zlata Filipovic
Zlata begins writing in her diary when she had just started fifth grade. Her diary chronicles her daily life from 1991 to 1993 during the Bosnian War and the war's increasing impact on her hometown of Sarajevo. Zlata Filipovic becomes a witness to food shortages and the deaths of friends and learns to wait out bombardments in a neighbor's cellar. She remains courageous and observant. The result is a book that has the power to move and instruct readers a world away.

**A Place to Stand**, by Jimmy Santiago Baca
Baca's memoir tells of his life before, during, and after incarceration in a maximum security prison, delving into concepts of parental abandonment and an unjust legal system. It is a triumph of overcoming adversity and finding one's voice.
**Fast Food Nation**, by Eric Schlosser
Journalist Eric Schlosser discusses facts about food production and preparation, the ingredients and taste-enhancers in the food, the chains' efforts to reel in young, susceptible consumers, and other unsettling facts. He reasons that the fast food industry has led to the growth of malls throughout America, widened the economic gap, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism across the globe.

**Isaac’s Storm**, by Erick Larson
Blending science and history, Isaac’s Storm is the story of Galveston, Texas, its people, and the hurricane that devastated them. Relying on hundreds of personal reflections on the storm, Larson follows individuals through the pivotal day and the days that follow. Larson describes its nuances in immense detail, with the storm itself as the book’s true protagonist.

**Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee**, by Charles Shields
With over 40 million copies sold, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is perhaps the twentieth century's most widely read American novel. Despite its popularity, its author continues to be a somewhat mystifying figure. Shields brings to life the warmhearted, high-spirited, and occasionally hardheaded woman who gave us two of American literature's most unforgettable characters--Atticus Finch and his daughter, Scout--and who contributed to the success of her lifelong friend Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*. 