

SUMMER READING: ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

Required Book	<i>Select and purchase a biography or an autobiography</i> (should be an unabridged version, teen to adult level)
Due Date	First day of school

PART I: Read and Annotate

Annotating as you read helps you actively engage with the text. Reading nonfiction is fairly straightforward. However, we know that our lives do, in many ways, play out like stories with conflicts and complications. As you read, pay attention to the person's personality, influence, goals, and complications. Annotate the following items (if present) as you read: *You will write a paragraph about three different areas of the person's life. You choose which areas to cover (suggested topics listed below).*

A. Possible topics included in biography/autobiography about which you might write:

- **Childhood:** When and where did this person grow up? What was his or her childhood like? How did his or her personality help shape his or her life? What people and/or events most influenced the person's life and future plans?
- **Adulthood:** How did this person's life change as he or she grew up? Did he or she have a family? Were there significant events that occurred in adulthood?
- **Schooling:** When and where did this person attend school? Did the person's schooling influence what he or she chose to do for a career?
- **Career/Fame:** What did this person do for a living before fame? Why is this person famous? Why do people know who he or she is? How does this person react to fame?

B. Themes you might read about and annotate: (bravery, creativity, determination, service, friendship, etc.). Biographies are usually written about people who face challenges, who overcome adversity, who create and/or stumble upon great new ideas or inventions, or who are inspirational as coaches, players, or just in life. In the margins of the book, you might consider explaining why you marked certain sections. Annotating helps you to be an active, engaged reader. When you return to school in September, you will write a character analysis, and your notes will be helpful to you. You will need to bring your book to school, but I will not check the annotations. Those markings will simply be used to help you find text evidence for your in-class essay the second week of school. Post-its work, as well.

PART II: Written Component

For the written portion of your assignment, write a total of three paragraphs, one paragraph for topics listed in Part 1 (childhood, adulthood, schooling, career, fame, etc.). Typically, paragraphs consist of 8-10 sentences. The first sentence should include the topic sentence, which explains what the paragraph will be about. Example: John Steinbeck grew up in Salinas, California in 1902. Then you will complete the paragraph telling about his childhood, using support from the biography. Do *not* write a research paper. No need to find extraneous information from other sources. *You should easily be able to write about three areas of your person's life. You choose which three areas.*

***Please bring your completed assignment to class on the first day of school in September. Late assignments will negatively affect your grade. You should also bring your annotated book on the first day of school. Because we will use the biography/autobiography in class, a paper copy of the book is recommended.

Bonus Points: For fun and extra points, take a picture of you with your summer reading book. Both you and the book should be clearly visible. No bathing suit or inappropriate photos. Print it out and bring it with your report on the first day of school. In addition to the printed copy, make sure you can access this photo electronically as well, because you will be using it for another assignment. Overall creativity will determine the number of extra credit points that you will receive. Points possible: 1-2

The following evaluation sheet will give you an idea of the expectations for this assignment:

____ You actually read a biography or autobiography. Annotating is a helpful practice, but I will not be checking for it. You will write three paragraphs, in total.

- Ideas to consider: Childhood, Adulthood, Schooling, Career, Fame
 - **Reminder-** *these areas are just suggestions, so if one of these is not covered in the book, write a paragraph about a different area that is covered.*

____ Each paragraph includes the following:

- The first sentence is the topic sentence.
- The paragraph includes between 8-10 sentences.
- Support from the novel is given to prove each topic sentence. Quotations are not necessary. Please do not copy any sentences from the biography. Use your own words.
- Proper grammar, spelling, and mechanics are used.
- Typed using MLA format including 12 point font, Times New Roman, double space.

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 30

If you have any questions during the summer, please contact Mrs. Thurston at tthurston@marinerscs.org

Happy Reading!