



The Calverton School

Middle School English Summer Homework

For your summer project this summer, you have been tasked with reading a book *you would not normally read*. Try to read the opposite of your preferred reading, so if you like to read fantasy/sci-fi books, read historical fiction instead. Stay away from “classics,” or books that others recommend. Go to a library or book store and find something on your own!

Book Instructions:

1. Borrow/purchase/find the book you would like to read this summer. Make sure it is a book you have not yet read.
2. Make sure the book is at least 125 pages long, and has full pages of writing. If you would like to do a manga, or comic book, or poetry, make sure it is 250 pages or longer (or read multiple volumes of the comic to reach 250 pages).
3. As you read, make sure to, using post-it notes to mark the page, mark the *five* most important passages you find in the book.

Opening Essay Instructions

1. After you have finished reading your book and located the five most important passages in the text, write a short essay responding to the prompt, “How did this book change your perspective about something in your life?”
2. You should **hand write** this essay, and have at least 400 words. This will be about 4 total pages, double spaced, handwritten. (Front and back of 2 sheets of paper).
3. You will read this essay, out-loud, to the class in the beginning of the school year.
4. You will bring in your book for others to look at, with 5 passages marked, at the beginning of the school year.

Book Chosen: _____

Date I Started Reading: _____

Date I Finished Reading: _____

Essay Rubric

| Criteria | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Points |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--------|
| Introduction | Clearly introduces the book and the specific perspective change. | Introduces the book and the perspective change but lacks clarity or detail. | Mentions the book and perspective change but is vague or incomplete. | Introduction is unclear or missing key elements. | Little to no introduction of the book or perspective change. | /10 |
| Explanation of the Book's Content | Provides a thorough summary of the relevant parts of the book that influenced the perspective change. | Gives a clear summary but lacks some details or relevance. | Summarizes the book but is either too brief or not directly related to the perspective change. | Minimal explanation of the book's content. | Little to no explanation of the book's content. | /20 |
| Changes in Personal Perspective | Clearly explains how the book changed their perspective with specific examples and personal insights. | Explains the perspective change with some examples but lacks depth. | Mentions a perspective change but with a few details or personal insights. | Minimal explanation of how the perspective changed. | Little to no explanation of personal perspective change. | /30 |
| Connection between Book and Personal Life/Experience | Strongly connects the book's themes or events with their own life experiences, demonstrating understanding and reflection. | Makes a connection but lacks depth or detail. | Mentions a connection but is not clear or well-explained. | Minimal connection between the book and personal experience. | Little to no connection made. | /20 |
| Organization and Clarity | Essay is well-organized, with a clear and logical flow of ideas. | Essay is mostly organized with minor issues in flow or clarity. | Essay has some organizational issues affecting the clarity of ideas. | Essay is poorly organized, making it hard to follow | Essay is very disorganized and unclear. | /10 |
| Grammar and Mechanics | Few to no grammatical or spelling errors. | Some grammatical or spelling errors, but still understandable. | Several errors that occasionally impede understanding. | Many errors that often impede understanding. | Frequent errors that make the essay very hard to understand. | /10 |