CISD District Summer Reading Purpose and Belief Statements

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and

Spanish version:

En Conroe ISD, animamos a todos los estudiantes a leer durante el verano para enriquecer el aprendizaje y provocar el pensamiento. La lectura de verano fortalece las habilidades de lectura, aumenta el rendimiento académico, fomenta el amor por la lectura y permite a los estudiantes convertirse en aprendices de por vida.

Además, se espera que los estudiantes que se matriculen en un curso de Pre AP o AP de Inglés se involucren en la lectura de verano, ya que prepara a los estudiantes para el próximo año escolar y crea un marco inicial común para la discusión en el aula y la instrucción.
Part I: Read these selected chapters from “Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion” by Jay Heinrichs

| Chapter 1 - Open Your Eyes (The Invisible Argument) | Chapter 16 - Know Whom to Trust |
| Chapter 7 - Show Your Leadership (The Belushi Paradigm) | Chapter 17 - Find the Sweet Spot (More Persuasion Detectors) |
| Chapter 11 - Gain the High Ground (Aristotle's Favorite Topic) | Chapter 18 - Speak Your Audience's Language |
| Chapter 14 - Spot Fallacies (The Seven Deadly Logical Sins) | Chapter 19 - Make them identify with your Choice |
| Chapter 15 - Call a Foul (Nixon's Trick) | Chapter 20 - Get Instant Cleverness |

Create a thinking map for each chapter. Use the following templates, but don’t feel as if you have to use the same map for each chapter (unless you just want to). You can use different thinking maps for different chapters.

Tips for organizing information:

1. Each chapter has a glossary of key terms (check the last page of the chapter). Start with those terms.

2. Then skim the text, noting in your mind the subheadings. If there are no subheadings, try to divide the text into sections. Consider the key terms and how they are represented in the chapter. This can help you identify important information.

3. Jot down notes in your own words (paraphrase). Try to capture the key supporting details for each main point.
Part II: Choose ONE of the following Nonfiction texts to read and interpret the author’s theme.

A story can have one or many themes. Theme is a STATEMENT that usually represents some form of commentary about life, or the author’s opinion about the human condition. Identify a theme in your book and explain what the author’s position is on this theme. Here are several thematic IDEAS to help you. These are not themes but can lead to developing themes. Ask yourself, “What does the author seem to be saying about this particular theme idea in each chapter? What does he/she want the reader to consider about this theme idea? How do the characters respond or change based on how the thematic idea affects them?” — Your answer to these questions is essentially your theme.

☐ Marginalized in Society based on Race, Gender, or Economic Status
☐ Gender Roles (Feministic ideals vs. Misogynistic Ideals)
☐ Family and Relationships – How they are defined or perceived
☐ Forms of Freedom vs Forms of Confinement/Institutionalization
☐ Loss of Innocence – Coming of Age

Include a QUOTE or PASSAGE of importance from each chapter to connect to a thematic idea that the author is arguing, explaining, or interpreting in their own terms. Include a citation at the end of quotes (Author’s Last Name, Page # of Quote). You are engaging on a deeper level than what you might when reading for information or entertainment. You are close reading, which is a critical, analytical skill. Remember that an author’s work (whether fiction or non-fiction) is a reflection of how they see the world. Thematic Ideas are based on those impressions, and relate to how people naturally function or exist within the world they live. Understanding these thematic ideas and understanding how they influence an author work is your main objective.

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<tr>
<th>Quote Example (from the text “All the Pretty Horses”)</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<td>“They heard somewhere in that tenantless night a bell that tolled and ceased where no bell was and they rode out on the round dais of the earth which alone was dark and no light to it and which carried their figures and bore them up into the swarming stars so that they rode not under but among them...” (30).</td>
<td>This sense of freedom, suggested in this early passage as Rawlins and John Grady ride off toward Mexico, continues throughout the novel emphasizes how highly valued and important the land was to both of them. The theme associated with the boys riding amongst the stars reflects the romantic notion they have of riding into a new environment free to make their lives what they desire.</td>
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Journals MUST be typed. You can either submit as a Word document attached to email. Or you can share a document to ztaylor@conroeisd.net through GoogleDocs. (NOTE: If you have any issues accessing a computer, please let me know immediately so we can discuss other options.)

1. “Angela’s Ashes” by Frank McCourt
This is the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank’s mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank’s father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy — exasperating, irresponsible, and beguiling — does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors — yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance, and remarkable forgiveness.

2. “A Long Way Gone: Memoirs by a Boy Soldier” by Ismael Beah
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 hell and survived. In A Long Way Gone, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he’d been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.
3. "Black Like Me" by John Howard Griffin
In the Deep South of the 1950s, journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross the color line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity—that in this new millennium still has something important to say to every American.

4. "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" by David Sedaris
David Sedaris plays in the snow with his sisters. He goes on vacation with his family. He gets a job selling drinks. He attends his brother's wedding. He mops his sister's floor. He gives directions to a lost traveler. He eats a hamburger. He has his blood sugar tested. It all sounds so normal, doesn't it? In this collection of essays, Sedaris lifts the corner of ordinary life, revealing the absurdity teeming below its surface. His world is alive with obscure desires and hidden motives—a world where forgiveness is automatic and an argument can be the highest form of love. Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim is another unforgettable collection from one of the wittiest and most original writers at work today.

5. "Educated" by Tara Westover
Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

6. "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls
Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

7. "Finding Fish: A Memoir" by Antwone Quentin Fisher

Your Grade:
ALL assignments are due the first Friday (8/23/19). When you return, you will receive a grade on both book annotations. Follow the guidelines for both closely. Be familiar with the strategies in Thank you for Arguing and be prepared to discuss the arguments. Also, be prepared to take a reading test over your selected novels. The reading tests are short answer-based, so the more you are familiar with the book, the better your responses.

If you would like to discuss or if you have questions over the summer, you may contact me at staylor@conroesd.net

Enjoy your summer vacation!

Mr. Taylor