

Summer Reading 2019
Approaches to English

Welcome to Approaches to English! This year we will explore the question of why stories matter. To begin, you will read two books this summer and complete the assignments:

- *Bluefish* by Pat Schmatz
- *Tattoos on the Heart* by Fr. Gregory Boyle

Assignment #1: *Bluefish* project

After reading the book, choose one of the following:

1. Draw a character web depicting the relationships between various characters in the novel. Write each of the character's names on a large sheet of paper or poster board, leaving as much space around them as possible. Around each name write:

- a description of the character (age, appearance, family background, job, skills, interests, etc.)
- adjectives to describe his/her personality
- quotes from the book which give insight into his/her character (Don't forget quotation marks and page numbers.)

Draw lines to connect each of the characters who have a relationship in the book, and along these lines write a brief description of the relationship.

OR

2. Imagine that you have to come up with an alternate title for the book. Choose a title that conveys your understanding of the book's themes, characters, or mood. Then design a new book jacket featuring this title. Think particularly about how you can use visual techniques such as color, font, framing, composition, and symbols to emphasize your key ideas.

You will present your project during the first week of school. You will be graded on your creativity, accurate representation of the text, and presentation. 50 points. See the rubric on the next page.

**Bluefish Project Rubric
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Concerns (Needs Improvement)	Criteria	Meets (or exceeds) Expectations
	<p>Presentation/Creativity: Project is attractive and neat; showcases creativity and original ideas. Verbal presentation is clear.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Accuracy: All information from the text is correct and accurately represents the characters/plot/themes.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Completeness: Project fulfills all requirements of the assignment.</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	
	<p>Effort: Strong evidence of effort to complete project.</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	

Assignment #2: Tattoos on the Heart Discussion Questions

All high school students will read *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest who works with gang members in Los Angeles. After reading, answer the following questions. Your answers should be written in complete sentences and typed in a Google Doc. Be sure to fully explain your thinking. Each answer should be at least a couple of sentences. Submit as an attachment on Google Classroom assignment on or before the first day of school. 50 points. See rubric on next page.

1. Begin with a discussion of the book's title: "Tattoos on the Heart." What does it mean...or refer to? And what is the purpose of tattoo removal?
2. How would you define, or describe, the central lesson that Father Boyle passes on—both to the young men in gangs...and to us, his readers?
3. How do inadequacy and shame function as barriers to giving and receiving love?
3. Does Father Boyle's approach to gang violence offer a realistic solution to a nationwide epidemic of poverty-violence-despair? Can it be (has it been) replicated in other areas, other cities? Or is his project too idealistic to work on a national scale? What do you think?
4. Talk about the book's individual stories: which are your favorites...which ones made you want to weep? Which made you laugh? Do you have a favorite?
5. What has made Boyle so successful in reaching the gang members? Is it his message...or is it his personal charisma...or what?
6. Discuss the role of faith in the men's transformation? Talk also about Boyle's inclusive philosophy—drawing on the wisdom of diverse faiths, as well as on history, philosophy, poetry.
7. How does Boyle interpret the Biblical parable about the paralyzed man being lowered through the roof of the house? Boyle agrees that the story is about the healing power of Jesus. But he also sees "something more significant happening. They're ripping the roof off the place, and those outside are being let in." In what way does the parable apply to the work of Homeboys?
8. What does this sentence mean—"We are all trying to learn how to bear the beams of love"?
9. In what way were you changed by this book? What surprised you most...moved you...angered you? What did you learn by reading *Tattoos on the Heart*?
10. Boyle challenges readers to "stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it." Is he successful in challenging you?

**Tattoos on the Heart Discussion Questions Rubric
Summer Reading 2019**

Concerns (Needs Improvement)	Criteria	Meets (or exceeds) Expectations
	<p>Content: Your responses are substantial, thoughtful, and demonstrate your interaction with the text. Your ideas are original</p> <p>Score: _____/20</p>	
	<p>Accuracy: All information from the text is correct and accurately represents the book.</p> <p>Score: _____/15</p>	
	<p>Conventions: Strong evidence of effort to complete project. Grammar, spelling, and conventions are correct (including complete sentences).</p> <p>Score: _____/10</p>	
	<p>Completeness: Project fulfills all requirements of the assignment.</p> <p>Score: _____/5</p>	

In addition, be prepared to discuss and take a test on both texts when you return to school. I encourage you to take notes (either in your book or in a notebook) as you read so you can refer to them in preparation for the test.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall! If you have questions about the assignments or need to reach me in the meantime, please e-mail me at mmorin@bishopwalsh.org. Have a great summer and happy reading!

Mrs. Morin