

Summer Reading for 9th Grade English (2020-2021)

Welcome to Freshmen English! This year we will explore the question of why stories matter and analyze the different techniques that authors use to create their stories. To begin, you will read two books this summer and complete the assignments:

- Bluefish by Pat Schmatz
- Night by Elie Wiesel

** A NOTE ABOUT NIGHT: In this memoir, Wiesel recounts his experiences as a teenager in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps during the height of World War II. Wiesel's descriptions are powerful and visceral, and at times emotionally moving, particularly since they are historic and true events. Please be aware of the heavy content that is presented in Night.*

➤ Assignment #1: Bluefish

After reading the book, choose **one** of the following:

A. 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

B. Design a new book jacket/cover with an alternate title for the book. Choose a title that conveys your understanding of the book's themes, characters, or mood. When designing your cover, think particularly about how you can use visual techniques such as color, font, framing, composition, and symbols to emphasize your key ideas. Be sure to include an image that best represents the alternate title you've chosen. (You may hand draw or digitally create your book cover.)

On the back, write a brief paragraph (4-5 sentences) explaining the choices you made.

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➤ **Assignment #2: Night**

Before reading Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*, preview the following YouTube clip giving you background into the Holocaust and Elie's experience. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15sM_av9i3Q

Complete **all** of the following:

A. After watching the video, write a typed paragraph (100-150 words) responding to the idea that American soldiers have infiltrated your neighborhood and forced you to live in small confined communities, known as ghettos. All your rights have been taken away, and you are not allowed to leave the ghetto because if you do, you will be shot and killed. What is your initial reaction or response to this scenario?

B. As you are reading, choose five significant quotes from *Night*. Copy each quote and explain how/why the chosen quote is significant to that particular chapter or the overall storyline. **Be sure to also include page numbers of where you found the quote.** The quotes and analysis should be typed and written in complete sentences.

C. After reading the book, revisit the video link above and respond to the last slide of the video which states, "He wrote this book for you, with the hope that telling his story would prevent such a horrid event from ever happening again." Has this book and his story kept horrid events, such as the Holocaust, from happening in our world today? Are there modern day injustices such as the Holocaust still occurring? Explore these thoughts in a short, typed response **(100-150 words)**.

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 like to read with a pack of sticky notes nearby so that I can jot down notes, write quotes, etc. while I'm reading 😊)

Also, please be prepared to bring your finished summer work to class during the first week of school.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall! If you have questions about the assignments or need to reach me in the meantime, please e-mail me at nfolk@bishopwalsh.org

Have a great summer and happy reading!

Ms. Folk