

Summer Reading for Grade 9 (2018)

Welcome to Freshmen 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
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Assignment #1: *Bluefish*

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.

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

A. After watching the video create a typed response (100-150 words) 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.

B. After reading the book, 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 essay (150-200 words).

C. 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. The quotes and analysis should be typed and written in complete sentences.

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