

AICE English Language AS Level - Grade 10
Summer Reading Assignment 2024
Due Friday, August 16, 2024

Introduction:

In the AICE English Language course we explore how writers use language to reach specific audiences for a variety of purposes. In the first quarter, we explore personal writing which includes journals, diaries, blogs, memoirs, and autobiographies. Reading one of the novels from the list will provide you with a foundation on how to analyze and write this specific genre.

Assignment details:

- Choose one of the books from the list below. These books are available for check out from our Media Center before you leave for the summer.
- Fill in the Data Sheet either electronically or hand-written.
The information you enter on the data sheet will provide you with key points to discuss your chosen novel in detail. This information will also be a source for directed writing tasks and analysis during the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Contact Ms. Thamdrup by email with questions - andrea.thamdrup@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Book List (choose one)

***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah (+)**

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. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (*)**

What is it like to inhabit a Black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates' attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son - and listeners - the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder.

***Educated* by Tara Westover (*)**

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

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***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (+)**

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (+)**

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash". At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age - and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

***Night* by Elie Wiesel (+)**

Night is an unmistakably autobiographical account of the author's own gruesome experiences in Nazi Germany's death camps. Told through the eyes of 14-year-old Eliezer, the tragic fate of the Jews from the little town of Sighet unfolds with a heart-wrenching inevitability. Even as they are stuffed into cattle cars bound for Auschwitz, the townspeople refuse to believe rumors of anti-Semitic atrocities. Not until they are marched toward the blazing crematory at the camp's "reception center" does the terrible truth sink in.

+Plenty of copies are available if the book selection has a plus sign by it.

**Copies are limited if there is an asterisk next to the title.*