2022 Summer Assignment for Advanced Placement English and Composition
Mrs. Albrecht

This summer you have three assignments to help you prepare for AP Lang. This English class is like no other you have taken before in that we will not read many long works, and most of what we read is non-fiction. Your summer assignment has three components:

1. A memoir
2. A work of non-fiction
3. A podcast

Within those categories, you may choose the books/podcast you would like, provided the book/podcast is new to you. Do not submit assignments based on books you have read for another class. I have listed some good options for you, but there are many more; if you'd like to read something not listed here, just email me for approval. (calbrecht@trinitywildcats.com) Most of these can be found on Amazon for less than $20 or in the Trinity library. I encourage you to have your own copy when possible so that you can feel free to annotate it.

Please note that because they deal with intense subject matter, many of the books/podcasts may contain abuse, graphic content, harsh language, and disturbing imagery. Please choose material that fits with your family's values.

All assignments are due by Thursday, August 11, 2022.

1. Choose a Memoir to read. Create a one-pager about the author by dividing a piece of plain paper into five sections. Your page should include:

- title, author, year of publication
- Four or five-sentence summary of the content
- At least one sentence describing the author's purpose
- Two important quotes with page numbers cited that reveal something about the author's character or beliefs
- A picture or drawing that visually symbolizes the content of the text

Here are suggested memoir titles:
• *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson details his experience hiking with an old friend
• *All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg is his story of growing up in poverty, his mother's sacrifices, and his journey to becoming a Pulitzer-Prize-winning reporter.
• *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt tells the story of an Irish-American family in poverty.
• *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover tells of her journey from an isolationist upbringing to completing her Ph.D. at Cambridge University.
• *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family* by Condoleeza Rice details her journey from childhood in Birmingham to becoming one of the most powerful people in the world.
• *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey shares his lessons learned about living with greater satisfaction.

• *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance is the story of a former Marine and Yale law school graduate who grew up poor in the Rust Belt.
• *Hope Heals (*or *Suffer Strong)* by Katherine Arnold Wolf documents a young family's perseverance and ministry after her traumatic stroke.
• *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up For Education and Was Shot* by Malala Yousafzi shares the story of the youngest recipient of the Noble Peace Prize.
• *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Ann Jacobs was published in 1861 and details Jacobs' escape from servitude and her search for her children.
• *Madison Park: A Place of Hope* by Eric Motley details his journey from rural Alabama to the Oval Office as a Special Assistant to President George W. Bush.
• *More Than a Bird* by Liz Huntley is the inspirational story of an unimaginable childhood that she overcomes thanks to God's grace and provision.
• *Shaken: Discovering Your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms* by Tim Tebow shares his journey with staying grounded in the face of disappointment, criticism, and intense media scrutiny.
• *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeanette Wells is her story of resilience and redemption in a dysfunctional family.
• *The Water is Wide: A Memoir* by Pat Conroy shares the story of South Carolina's Yamacraw Island and his experiences there.
• *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi describes hope and beauty as a young neurosurgeon struggles to discern what makes life worth living.

2. Choose a non-fiction book to read and annotate. You will write a precis on your non-fiction book during the first part of the school year. Any non-fiction book is fine; you may also choose another memoir from the list above. Some from this list blur the lines between fiction and non-fiction; we will talk about that strategy.

Here are some suggested titles for non-fiction:
• *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson is an important read to understand incarceration and the justice system in America.
• *Into the Wild, Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster*, *Where Men Win Glory*, or other titles by Jon Krakauer. He writes true adventure stories.
• *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien relates his experiences in "war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling." Fiction that reads like non-fiction.
• *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote was the first of a new genre: true crime.
• *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot is an amazing story of medical research. Her cells are the first "immortal" human cells grown in culture. If you are interested in a career in the medical field, this is an important read!
• *Devil in the White City, The Splendid and the Vile, Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania,* or other titles by Erik Larson
• *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* or *Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand
• *Outliers: The Story of Success, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big*

Difference, or other titles by Malcolm Gladwell
• *On Writing* by Stephen King. The author reflects on how his writing has helped him through difficult times and describes various aspects of the art of writing.
• *Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence* by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese
• *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President* or other titles by Candice Millard

3. Finally, choose a podcast. Listen to at least 10 episodes or one season. The possibilities are endless: true crime, lifestyle, re-watch

Some specific titles:

- WHOA That's Good
- Stuff You Should Know
- Up and Vanished
- Against the Rules
- Bear Brook
- In the Dark
- It Was Said
- Up First
- Ridiculous History
- Stuff You Missed in History Class
- Anatomy of a Murder
- Hidden Brain
- Planet Money
- Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls

Keep a list of notes including the main claims that the podcast made, any important factual evidence to support those claims, and at least three good quotes. Be sure to separate the podcast moderator or host and various other voices that may speak.