

WEST ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017

Assignment for Students Entering Grade 11

All students will read two books.

***Title #1 – Genre Study: Memoir**

***Title #2 – FREE CHOICE**

“A genre is a particular type of literature, painting, music, film, or other art form which people consider as a class because it has special characteristics” (*Collins COBUILD Dictionary of American English*). This year, students entering grade 11 are being asked to read two books of different genres.

The first book should be a MEMOIR. In William Zinsser’s *Inventing the Truth: The Art and Craft of Memoir*, he purports that “Unlike autobiography, which moves in a dutiful line from birth to fame, memoir narrows the lens, focusing on a time in the writer’s life that was unusually vivid, such as childhood or adolescence, or that was framed by war or travel or public service or some other special circumstance” (p.15).

When reading a memoir, it is necessary to pay attention to point of view as well as the impact of a particular setting or event on the writer’s life. Certainly, readers must be able to recognize any overt or indirect biases of the writer. Therefore, to achieve a depth of understanding, students must utilize more sophisticated reading strategies.

Students’ second book is FREE CHOICE. Students may choose to read a title from any genre that is of interest and which represents an appropriate level of challenge.

Please see our district website, www.wi.k12.ny.us, for the following book lists which can be used as a guide.

- List of Memoirs for Incoming 11th Grade Students
- Suggested Reading List Grades 9 – 12 (FREE CHOICE)

All genres present different kinds of demands on the reader. It is our goal to expose students to different genres so that they learn to anticipate these demands and adjust their reading accordingly. Furthermore, “having a deep understanding of the characteristics of genres is a strong foundation for all literacy-related learning” (*Genre Study*, Irene Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell, p. 19)

OTHER BOOK RESOURCES

<http://www.ala.org/valsa/teenstopten>

This link will take you to the YALSA’s (Young Adult Library Services Association) Teens’ Top Ten books for 2017. (Click on “View an annotated list of the nominees.”) Links to Top Ten lists for previous years are also accessible.

<https://www.common sense media.org/search/best%20memoirs%20for%20teens>

For each book listed, Common Sense Media provides a description as well as a section entitled, “What Parents Need to Know” to help families choose appropriate texts.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/must-reads-for-teens/379002318/>

This link will allow you to search the Barnes & Noble list, Must-Reads for Teens.