

12th Grade English Summer Reading Choices- Choose One

***Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt**

Despite impoverishing his family because of his alcoholism, McCourt's father passed on to his son a gift for superb storytelling. He told him about the great Irish heroes, the old days in Ireland, the people in their Limerick neighborhood, and the world beyond their shores. McCourt writes in the voice of the child, with no self-pity or review of events, and just retells the tales. He recounts his desperately poor early years, living on public assistance and losing three siblings, but manages to make the book funny and uplifting. Stories of trying on his parents' false teeth and his adventures as a post-office delivery boy will have readers laughing out loud. Young people will recognize the truth in these compelling tales; the emotions expressed; the descriptions of teachers, relatives, neighbors; and the casual cruelty adults show toward children. Readers will enjoy the humor and the music in the language. A vivid, wonderfully readable memoir. 1110L

***Eaters of the Dead* by Michael Crichton**

Michael Crichton takes the listener on a one-thousand-year-old journey in his adventure novel *Eaters Of The Dead*. This remarkable true story originated from actual journal entries of an Arab man who traveled with a group of Vikings throughout northern Europe. In 922 A.D, Ibn Fadlan, a devout Muslim, left his home in Baghdad on a mission to the King of Saqaliba. During his journey, he meets various groups of "barbarians" who have poor hygiene and gorge themselves on food, alcohol and sex. For Fadlan, his new traveling companions are a far stretch from society in the sophisticated "City of Peace." The conservative and slightly critical man describes the Vikings as "tall as palm trees with florid and ruddy complexions." Fadlan is astonished by their lustful aggression and their apathy towards death. He witnesses everything from group orgies to violent funeral ceremonies. Despite the language and cultural barriers, Ibn Fadlan is welcomed into the clan. The leader of the group, Buliwuf (who can communicate in Latin) takes Fadlan under his wing. Without warning, the chieftain is ordered to haul his warriors back to Scandinavia to save his people from the "monsters of the mist." Ibn Fadlan follows the clan and must rise to the occasion in the battle of his life. 1090L

***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams**

Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue. *The Hitchhiker's Guide* is rich in comedic detail and thought-provoking situations and stands up to multiple reads. Required reading for science fiction fans, this book (and its follow-ups) is also sure to please fans of Monty Python, Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, and British sitcoms. 1000L

***The Pact* by Sam Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt**

They grew up on the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attain that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors. This is a story about the power of friendship, of joining forces and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most...together. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt grew up in broken homes in Newark, New Jersey, and both Davis and Hunt served time in juvenile detention centers. They enrolled in Seton Hall University's pre-med program together, and today Hunt is a physician at Robert Wood Johnson University of Medicine and Dentistry and Davis is an emergency medicine physician at Newark's Beth Israel Medical Center. 940L

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls** Jeannette Walls, now a freelance writer, writes of the poverty, hunger, jokes, and bullying that she and her siblings endured while growing up. Her mother, unwilling to assume the responsibilities of parenting, and her father, an alcoholic, taught their children to fend for themselves. 1010L

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 6 CREATIVE PROJECTS TO COMPLETE

1. Create a comic book relating to a chapter from the 2nd half of the book.
2. Make three (full 22" X 28" poster board) posters about the book using two or more of the following media: paint, crayons, chalk, paper, ink, real materials.
3. Rewrite the story for younger children in picture book form.
4. Make a scrapbook about the novel using information from the book, or choose one character and create that character's scrapbook of the events in the book.
5. Create a board game based on events and characters in the book you read. By playing your game, members of the class should learn what happened in the book. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet and clear directions, events and characters from the story with images.
6. Complete a series of five drawings that show five of the major events in the plot of the book you read. Write captions for each drawing so that the illustrations can be understood by someone who did not read the book. Drawings must be a minimum of 8.5" X 11" and must include color.

* If you want to do something different from the above choices you **MUST** receive **PRIOR** approval from the English teacher you will have in the fall.

At the start of school, you will present your project to the class, below is the grading rubric for this presentation of your creative project.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------|--|
| Name: | | | | |
| Type of Project: | | | | |
| | Less Points | Full Points | Points | |
| Length of Presentation | Less than 1.5 minutes or more than 4 minutes. | 1.5 to 4 minutes | 10 | |
| | | | | |
| Creative Artifact & Overall Presentation | Displayed ineffectively | Displayed effectively | 10 | |
| | Presented ineffectively | Presented effectively | 10 | |
| | Shows low quality and low quantity effort | Shows high quality and high quantity effort | 10 | |
| | Unclear connection between artifact and text. | Clear connection between artifact and text. | 10 | |
| | | Total Points: | 50 points | |

Major Works Data Sheet

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Title: _____ Author: _____ | Point of View (POV) - What is the POV from which the story is told? How does the POV affect the reading? | Setting Information – Consider both time and place: |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|

Conflict/Resolution – Describe some of the major conflicts and how they were resolved:

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MEMORABLE QUOTES

** Include at least ten (10) memorable quotes which are significant in relation to the themes of the work or to the author's style and/or character development.

| Quotation | Significance/Personal Reaction |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | |

CHARACTERS

**In discussing characters, identify *each major and minor character*. Discuss how the author develops each character.
Does the character change (dynamic) or stay the same (static) throughout the story?

| Name | Role in Story | Significant acts/actions? | Character's perception of himself/herself? | How do you perceive the character? | Changes in character (external & internal)? |
|------|---------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | |

Themes – A theme is an idea the writer wishes to convey about the subject—the writer's view of the world or a revelation about human nature: ** List all major themes developed in the novel.

Vocabulary: **List and define 20 new words you encounter while reading the novel.

*** Use each of the 20 words in an original sentence.