

# English 11

## 2017 Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will choose between the following selections:

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

Or

*David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*  
by Malcolm Gladwell

### Overview:

Each of these books is a work of non-fiction and was selected to provide an opportunity to relate to real-world situations and to consider points of view other than those currently held. ***Please research the topics and content of each book and consult with parents when making your selection.***

### Objectives:

Students will read to gain insight into the viewpoints of others, and they will share insightful knowledge of their reading during the first days of classes.

Students will use critical thinking skills to assess an author's experiences and/or the validity of various conclusions.

### Assignment:

All students will read and annotate their selected book. (**Annotation instructions are in the summer reading folder.**) Be consistent in the use of marks and symbols (*for example: circle unfamiliar words, underline or highlight important points, place a star by interesting passages, etc.*) Keep a list of unfamiliar words, and define them as you read.

### Choose one of the following based on your book selection.

#### *David and Goliath*

1. Keep a journal on **note cards** as you read **chapters 1-6 and chapter 9 only**. **You are not required to read chapters 7 & 8.** In addition to summarizing (2-3 sentences) what has taken place in each chapter, write 1-2 complete sentences providing your insights and thoughts on the text. (***For example: Does the author make his points clearly? Is the author attempting to inform or entertain? Does the author provide adequate evidence to support his claims? etc.***)

- Use one card per chapter.
- All information must be your work in your handwriting.
- Bring index cards and book on the first day of class.

2. Choose one of the assigned chapters of the book, and find a connection between the chapter and actual events in your life, school, or community. Write a paragraph about your connection, and be prepared to discuss your work in class.

OR

*The Glass Castle*

(To follow this assignment, you will need the ISBN 978-0-7432-4754-2 edition.)

**Reading Section 1: pp 3-75**

**Reading Section 2: pp. 76-115**

**Reading Section 3: pp. 116-158**

**Reading Section 4: pp. 159-192**

**Reading Section 5: pp. 193-230**

**Reading Section 6: pp. 231-288**

After reading each section listed above, find two quotes concerning the trials and/or triumphs of the author and her family. Cite each quote with the author's name and the page number (ex. Walls 72). Analyze one of the quotes in each section, and explain its significance. An example of this type of quote and analysis follows:

*"Dad was so sure a posse of federal investigators was on our trail that he smoked his unfiltered cigarettes from the wrong end. That way, he explained, he burned up the brand name, and if the people who were tracking us looked in his ashtray, they'd find unidentifiable butts instead of Pall Malls that could be traced to him" (Walls 19).*

Walls characterizes her father as being paranoid about being followed by government officials, and he believes he can outwit his pursuers by paying attention to small details of his activities.

Write each of these analyses in your handwriting on a separate note card. Bring the cards and the book with you on the first day of class, and be prepared to discuss your responses.