

English IV Honors

Summer Reading Assignment

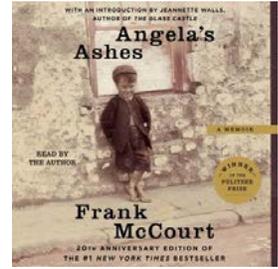
For your summer reading assignment, PICK ONE memoir from the following options:

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

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."

So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible, and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank lives for his father's tales of Cuchulain, who saved Ireland, and of the Angel on the Seventh Step, who brings his mother babies.

Perhaps it is story that accounts for Frank's survival. Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors—yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance, and remarkable forgiveness. *Angela's Ashes*, imbued on every page with Frank McCourt's astounding humor and compassion, is a glorious book that bears all the marks of a classic.

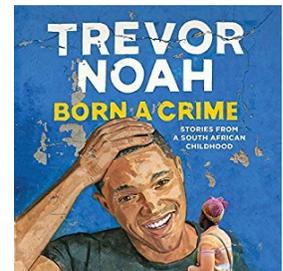


- ***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard time, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.



- ***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai**

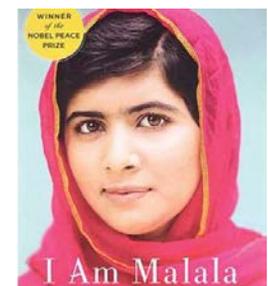
"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.



Step 2: Read & Annotate

REQUIRED: As you read, we expect you to annotate the text of your memoir—no digital texts.

- The method of annotation you choose is up to you, but we will expect to see evidence of **thorough annotation** in your **print copy of the text** when you come to class in August.
- You may choose to highlight key passages; you may choose to make notes in the margins of your book; you may choose to use sticky flags and sticky notes for your annotations.

GET AHEAD: In addition to annotations you make in your book, we will ask that you complete a reading journal for your selected book, which will be due the second week of school.

- We **recommend** you get a head start by starting the journal during the summer as you read. These more structured annotations will be a part of your first process essay.
- Though these reading selections are all nonfiction, they are classified as **literary nonfiction** because the writers use the literary styles and techniques commonly used by writers of fiction in order to tell the story of their own lives. Therefore, you will find that many of your literary analysis tools still apply to literary nonfiction.
- With that in mind, some areas we would like you to examine include narrative voice, characterization, the use of language, and the development of themes.
- We created a Google Docs template for you to use, which also includes more specific directions and expectations. You may download the template from our class website or use the link provided here: <https://goo.gl/vYMR1T> (the 1 in the link is a number, not a letter)
- **We expect your reading journal to be representative of your own experience as a reader.** For that reason, the passages you choose for your reading journal should be unique to you. The probability of selecting the exact same passages as a website or classmate is so unlikely that the only possible explanation is plagiarism, and **plagiarism will result in an automatic zero and a referral.**

Step 3: Be Prepared

This book will be the basis of your first essay in English IV Honors.

- The first six weeks will focus on a writing workshop in which you will hone the literary analysis skills that are the foundation of the course.
- All writing for the first six weeks will be based on your summer reading selection; therefore, the work you do this summer is essential for your future success in English IV Honors.

You should also be prepared for an assessment over your book selection.

- The assessment will expect that you have a full understanding of the nuances and intricacies of the book—this is something that cannot be achieved from reading online summaries.
- The questions will be open-ended and analytical in nature—there will be no basic plot or character questions on the assessment. You will be expected to provide written responses that show a sophisticated thought process and writing style.

DUE DATES:

- The Assessment will be on **August 23** in class—you will have the full class period.
- The Reading Journal is due on **August 30** at 11:59 pm via Turnitin.com

If you choose not to read and are, therefore, unprepared for the assessment and essay, it is recommended that you reconsider your enrollment in English IV Honors.

Contact Info:

Have questions? Need guidance? Look no further! Mrs. Oualline and Mrs. Strawn are happy to assist you and guide you toward a successful completion of the summer assignment!

You may email Mrs. Oualline (boualline@csisd.org) or Mrs. Strawn (hstrawn@csisd.org) if you have any questions about the summer assignment or English IV Honors.

For these instructions and other information regarding English IV Honors, check out our websites:

Oualline: ouallinator.com Strawn: megastrawn.wordpress.com

We are looking forward to meeting you in August! Have a wonderful, safe summer break!