



Georgetown County School District's summer reading program is an integral part of the ELA curriculum in grades 9-12. The "summer effect" on student achievement is well documented. The research on reading reveals that those students who read get better at reading. They also increase their

vocabulary and their fluency. Based upon these considerations, the **Summer Reading Program** serves as a vehicle to promote literacy.

This year, GCSB has decided that all students in Honors English I-IV, will read a memoir of their choice for summer reading. A memoir is a narrative that reveals experiences within the author's lifetime. Unlike an autobiography, which is typically a chronological telling of one's life experiences, a memoir captures specific experiences in a person's life that he/she considers most significant.

To choose a memoir for summer reading, students may explore these and other websites to select and purchase their texts:

<http://memorywritersnetwork.com/blog/eight-benefits-of-reading-memoirs/>

<http://www.amazon.com/b?node=11021806011>

In addition, the ELA department chairs at each school will have texts available to check out, and the media specialists will also be able to assist students with options available in the school libraries. Local libraries are also a resource for students.

ASSIGNMENT: While reading the memoir, students should pay close attention to the author's craft: the techniques he or she uses to create a memoir, such as descriptive/figurative language, sentence structure, dialogue, and theme. Students may notice how the author blends details with reflection, or builds suspense through the omission or emphasis on events.

After reading, students are required to write:

1. A brief memoir (**minimum 2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman**) about an incident in his or her life that was transformative.
2. A **one page** reflection explaining how the memoir they read influenced their personal memoir. This one page reflection should include **evidence from the text read (quotes and examples)**. **TOTAL: 3 pages minimum**

The written assignment is due on the day the students return to school, **August 17, 2016**. Students should turn in their assignments to their ELA teacher or the Department Chair. *****Please note: Even if the student is not enrolled in English during first semester, he or she is required to turn in his or her assignment on August 17, 2016.**

The written assignment will count as a test grade for the first marking period. 10 points will be deducted per day for late work.

*Summer Reading is optional for those students who are not enrolled in Honors English; however, we encourage everyone to read throughout the summer.