



10TH GRADE ENGLISH

2025 Summer Reading

Name: _____

- a) This summer, all students entering the 10th grade will read *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* by Geoffrey Canada. This text will be available through our Humanities online library on our website: <https://www.ccscambridge.org/>. You are also welcome to take them out of your local library or purchase your own copies.
- b) In addition, **all students will write a 3 page letter-reflection that is 12 point font and double-spaced on this document (see page 2).** It is due on the first day of school.
- c) Students are also strongly encouraged to read *at least* a book a week to keep their “reading muscles” in shape for the fall. No skill is more important than reading. Whether you are reading fun magazines or a novel or poetry, it is important to try to read as much as you can during the summer, especially with the 10th grade MCAS on the horizon.

10th Grade English Summer Writing Assignment CHECKLIST!

- ☐ I read *Fist, Stick, knife, Gun* by Geoffrey Canada
- ☐ I completed a typed letter-reflection
- ☐ I DID NOT use AI for this letter (Chat GPT, Grammarly, etc...)
- ☐ My letter-reflection is formatted like a personal letter written to my English teacher, but it is meant to be deep and thoughtful like a longer essay for school.
- ☐ My letter is at least three pages long, 12 point font, double-spaced.
- ☐ **IF YOU WANT A VERSION OF THE ASSIGNMENT THAT HAS SENTENCE STARTERS, COMPLETE [THIS ONE!](#)**

NOTE: This assignment is due on the first day of school. You have been invited to Google Classroom and can complete the assignment there. Please reach out to Ms. Thayer if you have any questions! hthayer@ccscambridge.org

Part 1: Text-to-Self Connection (at least 1 page, 12 point font, double spaced)

- ☐ Which passage in the book did you find most powerful? Why?
- ☐ Answer in at least two paragraphs.
- ☐ In the first paragraph, describe in detail the passage in the story that you connected to most.
- ☐ Include at least one quote from this passage.
- ☐ In the second paragraph, describe in detail another reason why you found this passage so powerful.

Part 2: Character Change (at least 1 page, 12 point font, double spaced)

- ☐ How does Geoffrey Canada change over the course of the text? Think about the fact that this is “a personal history of violence”--how does his understanding of / relationship with violence change over the course of the book?
- ☐ Find a scene from the beginning, middle, and end of the book that shows this change.
- ☐ Describe each scene
- ☐ Include a quote from each one.
- ☐ Explain how Canada is changing in each scene.

Part 3: Reflecting on a Theme (at least 1 page, 12 point font, double spaced)

- ☐ Identify a theme (big idea) explored in the text.
- ☐ What are you taking away from this book in terms of its larger morals / message / lessons?
- ☐ Reflect on just one of these themes and what you think the book suggests about this theme.
- ☐ Include at least 2 quotes and refer to at least 2 scenes from the book in which this theme comes up.

EDITING CHECKLIST:

- ☐ I DID NOT use AI for this letter (Chat GPT, Grammarly, etc...)
- ☐ I used spellcheck
- ☐ I checked for capitalization
- ☐ I checked for punctuation
- ☐ My paper is 12 point font and double spaced

Start writing on the following page ↓

Dear Ms. Thayer,

Sincerely,

[your name]