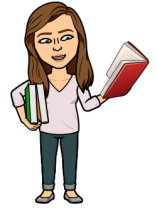


Sophomore Honors Summer Reading 2025-2026

This summer, I am asking that you do the following:

1. Read at least one other book of your choice (see the General Summer Reading assignment for recommendations) and complete the form on our Classroom page.
2. Choose **ONE** of the following memoirs to read while completing the assignment posted on the Summer Reading Classroom.



<i>Born a Crime</i> by Trevor Noah	<i>Just Mercy</i> (Adapted for Young Adults) By Bryan Stevenson	<i>Unbroken</i> By Laura Hillenbrand	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i> By Melba Pattillo Beals
			

ALL INFORMATION, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT OUR SUMMER READING GOOGLE CLASSROOM PAGE.

JOIN THE CLASS WITH THIS CODE: **fma7huf**

Over the summer, submit assignments as you complete them, but feel free to 'unsubmit' and 'resubmit' as needed until the start of the school year. Upon return in September, we will begin the year discussing, examining, and analyzing the memoir in our unit of study on narrative writing. Your choice readings will be discussed during our annual independent reading kick-off and in our first unit of work.

If you have any questions over the summer, you may contact me, Mrs. Gornick, at my school email: sgornick@somervilleschools.org or send a private comment through any of the assignments in the classroom.

☀️ Have a great summer! ☀️



GENRE STUDY: MEMOIR

Summer Reading/Response Assignment

The genre of **memoir** may be one that is new to you - that's great! It's always good to explore new things and see what you can learn from them. So let's talk quickly about **memoir: it's the story of a part of someone's life**. We will start next year with a genre study of memoir and narrative writing - this means reading, examining, and analyzing great examples of the genre to learn about its common elements.

Read your memoir with this goal in mind - to learn not only about the person highlighted in the memoir, but also to learn about the *genre* itself.

General Directions: Read **ALL** of the questions before you begin reading your chosen memoir so you know what you're looking for. I would even **recommend taking notes (annotating) as you read** (*on paper, on a Google Doc, a Word Doc, on Post-Its, whatever works for you*). Note-taking is only a suggestion and is not a required part of this assignment.

However, if you know what you're looking for as you read, it may be easier to pay attention to the story and the way it is told. These questions are designed to encompass the entire piece, so I'll be looking for evidence that you read the entire book, not just particular chapters to answer these questions.

In September, we will discuss your books as part of our first unit of study on memoir and narrative writing. You will be expected to have a working knowledge of your chosen story and its writing style. All assignments are found on google classroom and submissions will be expected on the first day of school.

Which text did you choose?

Part One: Personal Reflection

1. What was the most challenging part of reading the memoir? Why?

2. What is your favorite chapter of the memoir you chose? Why?

Part Two: Text Study

1. **“AUTHOR’S CRAFT”** has many definitions. It is “the art of writing” and “the tools and techniques of storytelling”. Simply put, “craft” is about the intentional choices an author makes when telling their story. While reading Find **2 examples** (passages) of intentional choices you believe the author makes in their writing to effectively tell their story. Copy those passages here (citing the page number), then explain the craft found in your selections, directly referencing the passages you chose.

2. **DICTION**, or **WORD CHOICE**, is simply which words the author intentionally uses and the effect(s) these choices have on the text and the reader; diction is directly tied to **tone, or the author’s attitude toward their subject and their audience in the piece of writing**. While reading, choose **ONE short passage** that you believe is an example of effective word choice proving tone. Copy the passage (citing the page number) and explain how and why the word choice is effective in producing tone (include the tone in your explanation), directly referencing the passage you chose.

3. The **STRUCTURE**, or **the way an author sets up and sequences their story**, is really important and tends to impact our reading and understanding of their message. Write a short reflection that discusses the **structure** that you see the author using in their memoir: Did you like/dislike the structure? Why does it work? Why does it make it challenging? Be specific in your references to the text and provide the page number(s) if you directly quote the work.

4. One of the elements of a memoir that makes it different from the genre of biography is the **AUTHOR'S REFLECTION**. Identify one place in the text where the author **reflects on their experiences** - note where this passage is (or copy the passage here) citing the page number. What do they tell you, the reader, in this passage? Is this section written differently than other parts of the story? What do you believe they want you to take away from that section/their story?