

AP English Language and Composition—10th Grade
Rising 10th Grade 2026 Summer Reading Assignment
Mr. Robert Davis
rodavis@brookstoneschool.org



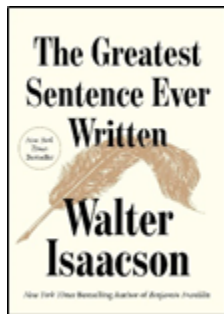
1. Upper School (Grades 9-12) Required Read:
***Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi**
(Hardback and paperback available from Amazon and other book outlets.)

Theo of Golden
Allen Levi
[ATRIA Paperback 2023]
ISBN: 978-1-6682-3651-2 (pbk)

Allen Levi grew up in Columbus, GA, but he lived for a time in Scotland, where he attended the University of Edinburgh. Today, he lives on a farm in Harris County. Levi is a singer and songwriter as well as a novelist. *Theo of Golden* is his third book.

Theo of Golden must be obtained as a physical book. You should read the book with pen or pencil in hand—making notes on the pages and marking compelling and significant passages as you read. **Be prepared to participate actively in discussions of this book—referring to specific passages when you contribute to the discussions.**

Print the assignment sheet that follows and respond to each item on the sheet. Submit your completed sheet on the first day of class.



2. ***The Greatest Sentence Ever Written* by Walter Isaacson**
(Only hardback copies of this new book are available. Purchase yours from Amazon or any other online book outlet. It is available at our local Barnes and Noble store.)

The Greatest Sentence Ever Written
Walter Isaacson
[Simon & Schuster 2025]
ISBN: 978-1-9821-8131-4

In *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*, famed historian Walter Isaacson reflects on an aspect of our nation's founding. Publication of this book purposefully coincides with the semiquincentennial anniversary of American independence—our nation's 250th birthday. His book is both a celebration and an analysis of the second sentence of *The Declaration of Independence*

The Greatest Sentence Ever Written must be obtained as a physical book. You should read the book with pen or pencil in hand—making notes on the pages and marking compelling and significant passages as you read. **You should be prepared to participate actively in discussions of this book—referring to specific passages when you contribute to the discussions.**

When you've completed your *active reading* of the book, print and complete the SOAPS Sheet assignment that follows. Read the directions and explanations provided on the sheet. Submit your completed sheet on the first day of class.

Name _____ Date completed _____

Discussion Prep Sheet for *Theo of Golden*

1. Make notes about the roles played by each of the following ideas/concepts in the novel. What is Levi apparently arguing about each of these ideas?

art / beauty

generosity / kindness

attentiveness

sadness

2. Quotable quotations? What are three lines or passages from the novel that resonate most with you? Write the quotations here and give the page numbers where you found each.

3. Is there significance or purpose to the characters' names in this novel? Check out the etymologies and meanings of the names you encounter in this story and consider any possible meanings or purposes to them.

4. Anything missing? Consider the time, the location, the plot, the characters in this novel and ask yourself what's NOT here, what's NOT in this novel. Is there meaning and purpose to any of these absences?

DIRECTIONS: PRINT THIS SHEET. Then, using the explanations provided for each section of this SOAPS sheet as your guide, provide detailed, hand-written responses in the spaces provided.

S

subject

What is the book about? What is the theme? The issue? The problem? The matter at hand? (Be sure to distinguish the subject from the purpose.)

O

occasion

What event or situation has led the speaker to action or established his attitude? What has happened, is happening, or is going to happen that compels the speaker to speak? What is the impetus for the speaker's writing?

A

audience

Who is the group or the individual? Their position in society? Their distinguishing characteristics? What aspects of the audience's history are known to the speaker? WHOM/WHAT DOES THE SPEAKER CONSIDER THE AUDIENCE TO BE? Whom/What does the audience consider themselves to be? What is the audience's relationship to the speaker? What is their anticipated attitude toward the speaker? The subject? The occasion?

P

purpose

What does the speaker want? What ideas or beliefs does the speaker want to inspire in the audience? What action does the speaker want the audience to take? What effect does the speaker want to have?

S

speaker

Who is he? His position in society? His distinguishing characteristics? To what group does he belong? What hat is he wearing as he speaks? Whom does he think he is? What does the audience know about him? What does he represent? WHO IS THE SPEAKER PRESENTING HIMSELF AS? WHO/WHAT DOES HE WANT THE AUDIENCE TO THINK OF HIM AS? What is the speaker's relationship to the audience? What is his attitude toward the audience? The subject? The occasion?