

# Twelfth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

## Directions

The first 12th grade unit is Writing the Personal Narrative for College. Your summer reading is to choose two age appropriate memoirs. If you are struggling to find books, we have provided a list of suggestions for you. You are not required to choose either book from the list, but you may if you like. If you choose books off the list, they must reflect the genre of memoirs and you must have your teacher's approval. With your teacher, complete the approval form on the back of this page. Hold on to the approval form to turn into your 12th grade English teacher in September.

1. For each book, complete a chart like the one below.
2. Choose **8-10** *significant* events in the story. Explain the protagonist's reaction to each event. Then, explain what his/her reaction to each event reveals about his/her identity. Lastly, choose a quote that demonstrates the effect each event has on the character (cite page numbers) and explain the quote's significance.
3. Identify **3-5** characters and their roles in the significant events. Explain the impact of the event on these characters and support with details from the book.
4. Be prepared to turn in your charts to your 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English teacher in September.
5. You will take a written assessment in the beginning of the year to demonstrate your reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. You will be allowed to use your notes on this assignment. The assessment will measure the New Jersey Student Learning Standards: W 11/12.3B and RL 11/12.1

Where can I get my summer reading books?

- At bookstores (i.e. Barnes and Noble)
- Amazon.com has most books at affordable prices
- At the Franklin Township Public Library
- Copies of older titles are sometimes available online for free

**Book Approval Form**  
**(Please keep in mind your book must fall under the genre of Memoir)**

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade\_\_\_\_\_

Book Title\_\_\_\_\_

Author\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Book Title\_\_\_\_\_

Author\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature\_\_\_\_\_

**Student: Remember to keep this sheet to turn in to your teacher in September.**

*Note: If for any reason you do not read the book approved on this form, you can go back and choose a book from the list or get a new book approved over the summer by the Director of Language Arts, Dr. Karen Schubert-Ramirez, at the board office. 732-873-2400 ext. 274; [kschubert-ramirez@franklinboe.org](mailto:kschubert-ramirez@franklinboe.org)*

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Book title \_\_\_\_\_ Book Author \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Event	Protagonist's Reaction	What does the protagonist's reaction to the event reveal about his/her identity?	Quote demonstrating the effect of the event on the character (cite pg #). Explain the quote's significance.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Book title \_\_\_\_\_ Book Author \_\_\_\_\_

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10.			

Book Title	Author	Synopsis
<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>	Mitch Albom	Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague who understood you when you were young and searching and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.
<i>Me Talk Pretty One Day</i>	David Sedaris	A recent transplant to Paris, humorist David Sedaris, bestselling author of "Naked," presents a collection of his strongest work yet, including the title story about his hilarious attempt to learn French. A number one national bestseller now in paperback.
<i>Dreams from my Father</i>	Barack Obama	In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family and confronts the bitter truth of his father's life...
<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>	Azar Nafisi	Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azar Nafisi, a bold teacher, secretly gathered seven of her female students to read forbidden Western classics. They were shy and uncomfortable at first, but soon they removed their veils and began to speak more freely—their stories intertwining with the novels they were reading by Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henry James, and Vladimir Nabokov. As Islamic morality squads staged arbitrary raids in Tehran, the women in Nafisi's living room spoke not only of the books they were reading but also about themselves, their dreams, and disappointments.
<i>Love, Loss, and What we Ate</i>	Padma Lakshmi	Long before Padma Lakshmi ever stepped onto a television set, she learned that how we eat is an extension of how we love, how we comfort, how we forge a sense of home...Shuttling between continents as a child, she lived a life of dislocation that would become habit as an adult, never quite at home in the world. And yet, through all her travels, her favorite food remained the simple rice she first ate sitting on the cool floor of her grandmother's kitchen in South India. Poignant and surprising, <i>Love, Loss, and What We Ate</i> is Lakshmi's extraordinary account of her journey from that humble kitchen...
<i>The Strongest Bond</i>	Susan Brouher	Sensitive and shy, with a rich inner world full of golden dreams, Susan spent her childhood relying on the grounding and guidance of her mother's love. But when Susan was just twelve years old, her life was broken apart in a way that would change her forever. Her mother was diagnosed with cancer, and two years later, she left an empty seat at the table, and an empty place in her family that nothing else could fill...
<i>The Year Of Magical Thinking</i>	Joan Didion	From one of America's iconic writers, a stunning book of electric honesty and passion. Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage--and a life, in good times and bad--that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child.





