

Summer Reading 2020-21 (Grade 12)

Instructions: Students entering into grade 12 must fulfill two requirements for summer reading: (1) each student must read **two** books this summer, one from each of the lists below, and (2) each student must complete **one** of the projects presented below. Books must be completed by and projects are due on the first day of school.

Concept: From the warrior's of the ancient world to today's entertainment celebrities, history has always been influenced by and interpreted through the image of each age's heroes. The heroic posture is a cultural ideal, something for an everyman to emulate, and, by studying such figures, we can understand the interior yearnings and ambitions of those around us. With this in mind, we will be reading a set of biographies/autobiographies representative of an acclaimed spiritual and secular hero (though the lines between spiritual and secular are often blurred in certain cases, the following lists were chosen based on the immediate cultural conception of each personality). By comparing these lives, we, as students, will have the opportunity to discover the values that society often associates with its most lauded members (the following lists mirror each other by selecting individuals from relatively similar ages whose life patterns correlate in a variety of ways. For example: Bainton's *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* and Morison's *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* both concentrate on heroes who propelled major change in European worldviews during the transition between the 15th and 16th centuries).

For the **first book**, choose one from the following list:

- *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland H. Bainton (ISBN: 1426754432)
- *A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards* by George M. Marsden (ISBN: 0802802206)
- *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson* by Courtney Anderson (ISBN: 0817011218)
- *Gladys Aylward: The Little Woman*, by Gladys Aylward (ISBN: 0802429866)
- *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom (ISBN: 0800794057)

For the **second book**, choose one from the following list:

- *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* by Samuel Eliot Morison (ISBN: 0316584789)
- *Benjamin Franklin* by Edmund S. Morgan (ISBN: 0300101627)
- *Abraham Lincoln* by James M. McPherson (ISBN: 0195374525)
- *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller (ISBN: 0486292495)
- *Churchill* by Paul Johnson (ISBN: 0143117998)

Choose **one project** from the following list:

- Write a paper about how concepts of heroism are reflected in the books you have read. Your paper should be broken into two parts. The **first part** will deal specifically with an analysis of each book that answers the following questions: (1) What is a hero? (2) How does each author reflect on the heroism of the title character [biographies] or themselves [autobiographies]? (3) What aspects of the title character's heroism does the book seem to approve of and find value in? The **second part** of your paper should be a personal response that answers the following questions: (1) Why is the study of heroism important for your own life? (2) How has reading books focusing on culturally accepted heroes affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: three pages
 - Section one: two pages (500 words)
 - Section two: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style
- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

- Make a short film (at least 5 minutes) about how concepts of heroism are reflected in the books you have read. In addition, you will write a personal response. **The film** will seek to analyse the books by portraying answers, directly or symbolically, to the following questions: (1) What is a hero? (2) How does each author reflect on the heroism of the title character [biographies] or themselves [autobiographies]? (3) What aspects of the title character's heroism does the book seem to approve of and find value in? This could take place as an interview of the authors or characters or as its own story, but it is in no way limited by that format. It is possible for two or more students to work together on this project, however, the addition of each student will add one minute and thirty seconds to the production. This must be e-mailed to kashibley@ggwo.org before the first day of school. **The paper** should be a personal response that answers the following questions: (1) Why is the study of heroism important for your own life? (2) How has reading books focusing on culturally accepted heroes affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style
- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

- Draw a comic book or make a collage painting in which concepts of heroism are reflected in the books you have read. In addition, you will write a personal response to the books you read. **The art** will seek to analyse the books by portraying answers, directly or symbolically, to the following questions: (1) What is a hero? (2) How does each author reflect on the heroism of the title character [biographies] or themselves [autobiographies]? (3) What aspects of the title character's heroism does the book seem to approve of and find value in? The formatting is up to the student. It can be drawn in a notebook, on a posterboard, or it can be done on the computer.

The main thing is that the ideas that the student is trying to express are fully portrayed. **The paper** should be a personal response that answers the following questions: (1) Why is the study of heroism important for your own life? (2) How has reading books focusing on culturally accepted heroes affected your life? This paper should follow the requirements below:

- Length: one page (250 words)
- MLA Style
- Typed - Times New Roman, size 12

Note on Access: All books from the reading list can be purchased at a relatively low cost from Amazon, Abebooks, and other similar book vendors, however, I also recommend using your local library which offers physical, digital, and audio access to the majority of the list. It is also possible to find a variety of books for free in pdf format online.

If you have any questions about summer reading, please feel free to contact me at:
kashibley@ggwo.org.

Sincerely,
Mr. Shibley
High School English Teacher