

Dear English 12 students (and parents),

These books were chosen because first semester you will read nonfiction, and these books will help us dive into our discussion of recognizing bias in nonfiction and effectively reading nonfiction. A few of these books contain instances of adult language or adult situations, but the benefits of these books far outweigh any potentially offensive material. As you will be writing several papers over these books, you are **required** to keep a reading log. This writing log will be submitted to turnitin.com and will serve as your first grade for the year.

Choose **two** of the following books:

- No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy (Fr. Donald Calloway) is true story of a military brat who caused an international scandal, turned to drugs, alienated himself from his parents—and then found God.
- Odd Girl Out (Rachel Simmons) documents the socialization of girls as sweet, cooperative and nice, and then shows through case studies and psychological research how this leads to an odd mixture of aggression and passivity. Girls, your relationships with your frenemies will make sense after reading this book!
- A Hope in the Unseen (Ron Suskind) follows an African American high school student as he dreams of getting accepted into an Ivy League college. Despite living in poverty and attending a poor high school, Cedric Jennings wants to be educated.
- Outliers (Malcolm Gladwell) follows many outstanding men and women and argues that their greatness comes not just from their hard work, but from opportunities that they were given early in life.
- The Gift of Fear (Gavin De Becker) gives information on how to recognize warning signals of violence and prevent potential problems with other people.
- Three Cups of Tea (Greg Mortensen) describes Mortensen's attempts to build schools in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Nickel and Dimed (Barbara Ehrenreich) is one woman's experiment on living on minimum wage jobs. She sets out to show that it is difficult to live on minimum wage. If you read this book, you may wish to also choose the answer to it: Scratch Beginnings.
- Scratch Beginnings (Adam Shepard) is a college graduate's answer to Nickel and Dimed. He sets out to live the American dream with only \$25 in his pocket.

Our first writing assignment will be based on these summer assignments. You will be writing about your responses to certain kinds of appeals to emotion (to popularity, to authority, to fear, to novelty, to pity, to tradition, etc.)—and you must use specific textual references to the books you choose. Read with care. Doing so will mean that you will begin English 12 on solid footing.

For the reading log assignment, you must:

- Join the class on turnitin.com
- Choose 7 moments/examples/events **from each novel** where you feel that the author is trying to persuade you to feel a certain emotion
- Copy each moment down in a direct quote (include a citation)
- In **at least 200 SINGLE SPACED** words **per quote**, reflect on the impact that this quote has on you. Do you feel the emotion that your author is trying to touch? If yes, why? If you are skeptical of this moment/example/event, why?
- **Each quote/explanation should be a separate page (7 pages per book)**
- Submit to turnitin.com by the first day of school. You will turn in each book assignment separately.

Happy Reading,

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