

Kirtland High School-English 12

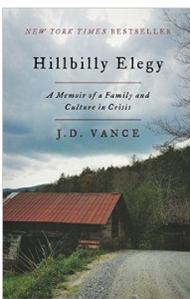
The BIG Summer Read 2017

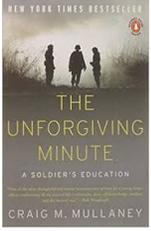
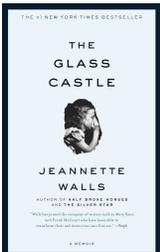
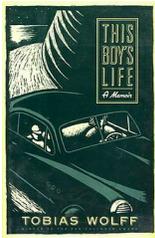
Welcome to English 12! I look forward to working with you in the fall. The first few weeks of school will be devoted to the study and discussion of your summer reading assignment. The nature of this assignment will require you to work on it throughout the summer. You should not procrastinate and wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and completing your notes, or you will not finish. In order to have a productive start to your school year, you must complete this assignment to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and insight. You will submit your work on the first day of school. Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Why read during the summer?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other.• Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences.• The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically.• Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop.• Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power. |
|---|--|

Education is a year-round endeavor.

Choose one of the following memoirs or novels:

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>The book cover for 'Hillbilly Elegy' by J.D. Vance features a photograph of a small, weathered wooden building with a red roof, set against a backdrop of trees and a clear sky. The text on the cover includes 'NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER', the title 'Hillbilly Elegy', the subtitle 'A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis', and the author's name 'J.D. VANCE'.</p> | <p>Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance (From the Back Cover)</p> <p>From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a probing look at the struggles of America's white working class through the author's own story of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town</p> <p><i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of poor, white Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for over forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. In <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i>, J.D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck.</p> <p>The Vance family story began with hope in postwar America. J.D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love" and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually one of their grandchildren would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of success in achieving generational upward mobility. But as the family saga of <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> plays out, we learn that J.D.'s grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, never fully escaping the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. With piercing honesty, Vance shows how he himself still carries around the demons of his chaotic family history.</p> <p>A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.</p> |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p><i>The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education</i> by Craig Mullaney</p> <p>In this surprise bestseller, West Point grad, Rhodes scholar, Airborne Ranger, and U. S. Army Captain Craig Mullaney recounts his unparalleled education and the hard lessons that only war can teach. While stationed in Afghanistan, a deadly firefight with al-Qaeda leads to the loss of one of his soldiers. Years later, after that excruciating experience, he returns to the United States to teach future officers at the Naval Academy. Written with unflinching honesty, this is an unforgettable portrait of a young soldier grappling with the weight of war while coming to terms with what it means to be a man.</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls</p> <p><i>The Glass Castle</i> is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.</p> <p>The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.</p> <p><i>The Glass Castle</i> is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.</p> |
|  | <p><i>This Boy's Life</i> by Tobias Wolff</p> <p>This unforgettable memoir, by one of our most gifted writers, introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move, yet they develop an extraordinarily close, almost telepathic relationship. As Toby fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff does a masterful job of re-creating the frustrations and cruelties of adolescence. His various schemes - running away to Alaska, forging checks, and stealing cars - lead eventually to an act of outrageous self-invention that releases him into a new world of possibility.</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.</p> <p>Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what <i>really</i> went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.</p> <p>But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.</p> |

Optional but Strongly Recommended:



Where
You Go
Is Not
Who
You'll Be

An Antidote to the College
Admissions Mania

FRANK BRUNI
New York Times Bestselling Author

***Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be* by Frank Bruni**

Frank Bruni, a columnist for The New York Times, wants to help young people understand the urgent truth of his title. “Where we go to college will have infinitely less bearing on our fulfillment in life than so much else: the wisdom with which we choose our romantic partners; our interactions with the communities that we inhabit; our generosity toward the families we inherit and the families that we make.” That’s something we all know in retrospect but that’s hard to know in prospect for anyone caught in what Mr. Bruni calls the “college admissions mania.” **-By ANDREW DELBANCO**

**Be prepared to discuss and write about your selection on the second day of class.
Tweet and reply to peers’ tweets this summer at #KHS12BSR (Big Summer Read).**