

Windham High School Summer Reading 2010



"I cannot live without books..." Thomas Jefferson to John Adams

One of Windham High School's most important goals is to provide opportunities for all students to be successful, lifelong learners. Whether a student pursues a college education or enters the work force immediately after high school, reading is fundamental to life activities and full participation in a democratic society. At Windham High School, we strive to foster a climate that encourages, supports, and values the art of reading.

Reading Assignments

The school-wide summer reading assignment is *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah.

American Studies

In addition to *A Long Way Gone*, students enrolled in American Studies must also read a book of their choice. For your choice book, please select a work that both interests you and is appropriate for your reading ability. You must have a copy of this book with you at the start of school for assessment-related activities.

All required books can be easily purchased through www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com. High quality, used books can also be purchased through www.powell.com. In addition, these required books are available at the Windham Public Library. Since students are expected to read deeply and for appreciation, it is helpful for them to have their own copies in which to jot notes and/or underline important passages. If there is a problem with purchasing these books, students may borrow books from Windham High School. These books will be available at the high school after July 1. Please call ahead to make certain someone can assist you in picking up the books.

A lengthy list of recommended books organized by title, author, genre, and reading levels can be found at: <http://www.windhamsd.org/whs>. Students may find this list helpful as they select their choice books. Students are not required to select from this list.

Summer Reading – Writing Assignments

American Studies

As you read *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, you will need to keep a double-entry journal (also called a two-sided or dialectical journal) for each literary work. This type of journal allows the reader–writer to record notes on one side of the page and to use the other side to comment on those notes.

What does the double-sided journal look like?

Divide your paper in half vertically. On one half of the paper, record specific quotations or passages (with page number(s) from your novel) and on the opposite side record your reflections on these words. Journals can be typed or handwritten.

Consider the following when you reflect:

Are you struck by the language the author uses? Are the images powerful and effective? Can you relate this particular passage or quotation to something in your life or the world in general? Is there repetition of ideas or symbols? Are the details of the book vital?

Quotation or Passage from the book	Your reflections
<p>“No one said another word. Everyone of us turned to the window as if there were actually something to look at besides wind-whipped, snow-covered prairies” (Watson 76).</p>	<p>- a short, but powerful ending to the chapter, the image of the prairies makes me think of the coldness the young boy is feeling</p> <p>the window is important – maybe a symbol -- everyone is looking outside, but they are separated.... from the world</p>

Your journal should indicate strong effort and record reflections that will help you understand the books you are reading. These journals will be collected by your teacher, reviewed, and graded at the start of school. You will be able to use these journals to prepare for formal tests and writing assignments on *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

How many quotations or passages should you have? In general, a minimum number of passages consists of two entries per chapter or two passages for approximately every 40 pages.

For your choice novel, you do not have to complete a double-sided journal, but you will be required to complete a one page summary which includes plot, summary, characters, conflicts and resolution, and major theme(s). This will be written in class at the start of school.