



Kittatinny Regional High School

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2005 Governor's School of Excellence



June 2018

Journalism Summer Assignment 12th Grade

In August of 2018, students enrolled in Journalism will be e-mailed an invitation to join the “Journalism - Writing for the Media” class page via Google Drive. Their summer assignment will be submitted through the class page. Instructions for how to join the class and submit the summer work will be included in the invitation email. Students with questions should contact the instructor at tpastor@krhs.net

Background (excerpted from “The Vietnam War and the media”, originally written by Ronald H. Spector, and published on the web by *Encyclopedia Britannica*)

Vietnam became the subject of large-scale news coverage in the United States only after substantial numbers of U.S. combat troops had been committed to the war in the spring of 1965. Prior to that time, the number of American journalists in Indochina had been small—fewer than two dozen even as late as 1964. By 1968, at the height of the war, there were about 600 accredited journalists of all nationalities in Vietnam, reporting for U.S. wire services, radio and television networks, and the major newspaper chains and news magazines. The U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) made military transportation readily available to journalists, and some took advantage of this frequently to venture into the field and get their stories first-hand. Because proximity to the battlefield carried obvious risks, more than 60 journalists were killed during the war. Many reporters, however, spent most of their time in the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), and got their stories from the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office’s daily briefings (which soon became known as “the five o’clock follies”).

Vietnam is referred to as the “first television war.” Film from Vietnam was flown to Tokyo for quick developing and editing and then flown on to the United States. Important stories could be transmitted directly by satellite from Tokyo. There has been much discussion of the way television brought battles directly to American living rooms, but most television stories were filmed soon after a battle rather than in the midst of one, and many were simply conventional news stories. Indeed, most stories about the war on nightly TV news shows were not film records fresh from Vietnam but rather brief reports based on wire service dispatches and read by anchors.

The role of the media in the Vietnam War is a subject of continuing controversy. Some believe that the media played a role in the U.S. defeat. They argue that the media’s tendency toward negative reporting helped to undermine support for the war in the United States while its uncensored coverage provided valuable information to the enemy in Vietnam. However, many experts who have studied the role of the media have concluded that prior to 1968 most reporting was actually supportive of the U.S. effort in Vietnam. The February 1968 assessment by anchor Walter Cronkite of the CBS Evening News, (known as “the most trusted man in America”), that the conflict was “mired in stalemate” was seen by many as the signal of a profound change in reporting about Vietnam, and it is said to have inspired Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson to state, “If I’ve lost Cronkite, I’ve lost Middle America.” The increasingly skeptical and pessimistic tone of reporting may have reflected rather than created similar feelings among the American public.

Assignment: During the school year, we will discuss the enormous impact that the Vietnam era had on modern journalism. To prepare for this, please read *The Things they Carried*, a collection of linked short stories by American journalist Tim O’Brien concerning a platoon of American soldiers fighting on the ground in the Vietnam War. A PDF is available FREE here:

<https://www.boyertownasd.org/cms/lib/PA01916192/Centricity/Domain/777/TTTC%20Full%20Text%20mariner.pdf>

Though it is officially labeled as fiction, *The Things They Carried* is based upon O’Brien’s experiences as a soldier in the 23rd Infantry Division. **As you read, keep a journal in which you detail information about at least 10 of the 21 short stories. In each entry, be sure to include a) the title, b) a brief summary (in complete sentences), including the who, what, where, why, when and how of the short story’s plot, and c) any writing lessons that journalists should take away from the story.** An example of an entry for the short story “Love” will be provided on the Google Classroom page. **Your journal** (which should therefore not include the short story “Love”) **must be submitted via Google Classroom by 2:15 p.m. on the first full day of classes.**

Tara Pastor Poe
Instructor

Kittatinny Regional Board of Education
“Imparting Knowledge That Works for Our Children” - Sussex County’s First Star School

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Grade 12 Annotated Summer Reading List – June 2018 – available on KRHS website www.krhs.net

B - Biography/Autobiography /Memoir
A - Article

C - Classic
CF - Contemporary Fiction

GN - Graphic Novel
HF - Historical Fiction

M – Mystery
NF - Non Fiction

SCI/Fi - Science Fiction
SF – Sports Fiction

REQUIRED READING FOR CREATIVE WRITING

B *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* By Maya Angelou

The first in a series of autobiographical works, the story spans her childhood from age 3 to 17, following young Maya and her older brother Bailey as they bounce from their parents' care to their grandmother's and back again.

and

(Choose one of the following four books)

CF *Atonement* By Ian McEwan

This drama follows the lives of young lovers, who are torn apart by a lie constructed by a jealous younger sister. All three must deal with the consequences. Robbie is the hardest hit, since the deception results in his imprisonment, but hope increases when paths cross during World War II.

CF *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

This is a controversial novel originally published for adults. It has since become popular with adolescent readers for its themes of teenage alienation and angst. The hero-narrator is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker, who leaves his prep school and goes underground in New York City for three days.

CF *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson

This story is about the life of young Montanan David Hayden, his family and the fictional town of Bentrack, Montana. It focuses on the struggles of a family torn between loyalty and justice.

CF *True Grit* by Charles Portis

A drunken, hard-nosed U.S. Marshal and a Texas Ranger help a stubborn teenager track down her father's murderer in Indian territory.

REQUIRED READING FOR DRAMA

C *Medea* by Euripides

Greek tragedy about Jason who has abandoned his wife, Medea, along with their two children. He hopes to advance his station by remarrying with Glauce, the daughter of Creon, king of Corinth, the Greek city where the play is set.

REQUIRED READING FOR AP English Literature and Composition

CF *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-student in Saint Petersburg who formulates a plan to kill an unscrupulous pawnbroker for her money.

CF *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* By Thomas C. Foster

Greek tragedy about Jason who has abandoned his wife, Medea, along with their two children. He hopes to advance his station by remarrying with Glauce, the daughter of Creon, king of Corinth, the Greek city where the play is set.

and

(Choose one of the following five books)

HF *Catch-22* By Joseph Heller

The plot of the novel centers on the antihero [Captain John Yossarian](#), stationed at an airstrip on a Mediterranean island in [World War II](#), and portrays his desperate attempts to stay alive.

CF *The Color Purple* by J. D. Alice Walker

The Color Purple weaves an intricate mosaic of women joined by their *love* for each other, the men who *abuse* them, and the children they care for.

HF *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed.

CF *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Causing immediate excitement among Mrs. Bennet and her five daughters, Mr. Bingley, a wealthy young gentleman, has rented a nearby country estate, Netherfield. He arrives in town accompanied by his fashionable sister and his good friend, Mr. Darcy.

HF *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

Charles Darnay tries to escape his heritage as a French aristocrat in the years leading up to the French Revolution.

REQUIRED READING FOR JOURNALISM

CF *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Depicts the American men of Alpha Company platoon fighting on the ground in Vietnam.

REQUIRED READING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL / MULTICULTURAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

A "What's American About America?" by Ishmael Reed

A "Helen in America" by Gish Jen

A "A View from Canada" by Margaret Atwood.

OTHER SUGGESTED READING

GN *Blankets* by Craig Thompson

Realism reigns supreme in both the story arc and in the humanity of its characters. This is Thompson's tale of growing up, falling in love, discovering the texture and limits of his faith, and arriving at a point from which he can look back at those experiences. Much of the story occurs when Craig and his brother Phil are young boys and includes images of boyish pranks.

(NOTE: Contains illustrated, mature scenes.)

HF *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown

Based largely on primary source materials, this work details how white settlers forced Indian tribes off the plains, often by killing them. Though Hollywood and "penny dreadfuls" portrayed Indians as red devils who launched attacks on homesteaders, this research shows that the opposite is closer to the truth.

HF *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth E. Wein

A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. Only one of the girls has a chance at survival. "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo and she is sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent, her Nazi interrogators give her the choice to either reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

NF *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*

by Erik Larson

This book is the tale of Daniel Burnham and H.H. Holmes. Burnham is an architect who inadvertently creates a perfect setting for Holmes, a serial killer.

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NF *Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever*

by Bill O'Reilly

In the spring of 1865, the American Civil War came to an end with the Confederate surrender. President Lincoln's dream of healing a divided nation began, except for John Wilkes Booth. Lafayette C. Baker, detective and former Union spy, unravels clues leading to Booth which ends with a shootout and executions – including the first woman ever executed by the United States government, Mary Surratt.

CF *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

This is the story about a high school boy, Miles, and his school year broken into two parts, before a tragedy involving a friend, and afterwards. He learns lessons about loyalty, friendship, and life.

CF *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult

Set in a small town high school in New Hampshire, a community must deal with a shooting when a teenager kills nine students and one teacher in the span of nineteen minutes.

NF *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*

by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page

Growing up on the streets of Newark, New Jersey, three young men form a pact. A life changing story about the power of friendship as they join forces to beat the odds to attain their dreams.

CF *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica, a high school track star, loves to run until a tragic accident leaves her without a leg. Her struggles to push past self-pity are inspirational as she sees the discrimination toward Rosa, a fellow classmate, who has cerebral palsy.

NF *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

In 1960, a woman noticed the birds had stopped singing and their population had decreased in her neighborhood. She summoned a friend, biologist Rachel Carson, to investigate. Her discoveries revealed the atrocities of pesticide poisoning. Carson's work left chemical companies trying to discredit her findings, and prompted the environmental movement.

CF *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers

After enlisting in the War in Iraq, Robin Perry (Birdy), writes to his uncle about his impressions, experiences, and friendships as a soldier in Iraq. Assigned to a Civil Affairs Unit, Birdy provides a realistic glimpse of the war in Iraq.

CF *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers

A powerful friendship in Al Tafari, Iraq between 21-year-old Private Bartle and 18-year-old Private Murphy as they cling to life after their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city and into a war neither is prepared to fight.

Sci/Fi *Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman

In 1905 while working as an examiner at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern, Albert Einstein published three important papers in *Annals of Physics*. It recreates the dreams that culminated in a famous essay including one vision of a world with-out time. This is a provocative and elegant speculation on the nature of time.

B *Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls

Walls opens her memoir by looking out the window of her taxi, wondering if she is "overdressed for the evening" and spotting her mother on the sidewalk, "rooting through a dumpster." She describes her parents and three siblings who learned to support themselves, eating out of trashcans at school or painting their skin so the holes in their pants didn't show. As each child escaped to NYC, their parents soon appeared on their doorsteps. "Why not?" Mom said. "Being homeless is an adventure."

C *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

A poor farmer, Wang Lung, rises from humble origins to become a rich land-owner with a large family. It contains a wealth of detail about daily life in rural China at the end of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century; it shows what people ate, their clothes, work habits, religions, and family customs.

SF *Hoops* by Walter Dean Meyers

A sports novel about a boy named Lonnie, who lives in Harlem with little hope for the future. He has one asset, his basketball game. His only chance for a scholarship depends on Cal, a failed pro who has hit bottom. Cal improves Lonnie's game, but disappears just when Lonnie needs him most.

M *The Hound of Baskervilles* by Sir Robert Conan Doyle

This novel tells the story of an attempted murder inspired by the legend of the Hound of Baskervilles. Sherlock Holmes solves the murder in this intriguing novel.

B *I Am a Seal Team Six Warrior*

by Howard E. Wasdin and Stephen Templin

The dramatic tale of how Howard Wasdin overcame his tough childhood to live his dream and enter the exciting and dangerous world of U. S. Navy SEALs and Special Forces snipers.

NF *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

by Rebecca Schlot

Henrietta Lacks was a poor tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors. Cells – taken without her knowledge – have become one of the most important tools in medicine developing the polio vaccine and have un-covered the secrets of cancer, viruses, and other advances.