

**Dear Incoming Honors English Sophomores,**

Your summer reading books are:

*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, by Marjane Satrapi

*The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*, by [The Freedom Writers \(with Erin Gruwell\)](#) and Zlata Filipovic

**Assignment:**

1. **Prior to reading**, you will write **one thoughtful** journal entry where you will respond to any of following topics or a combination of them:

1. Oppression and tolerance
2. Earning respect and trust
3. Overcoming adversity
4. Family relationships
5. Violence
6. The power of words
7. Having courage
8. Inequality in education and/or other systems

Your entry needs to be one full page and should include your thoughts, questions, observations, etc. about the topic. Some possibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Explain what the topic means to you.
- Why is the topic important? Is the topic important?
- Describe your own personal experiences with the topic.
- Have you heard anything in the news about any of the topics?

2. **Closely read and annotate the books**, paying special attention to the themes presented. If you are unable to annotate in the book, use post-it notes or keep a log in a notebook /composition book. You may organize this chronologically or another way that makes sense to you (i.e. by stylistic device, literary element - character; theme; symbolism, etc.).

3. **After you read both books, write another journal entry.** This one will be a personal reflection. Choose and describe the most important takeaways (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) from the readings and justify your choices.

The journals should be handwritten, **one page** in length, written margin to margin, and on separate sheets of paper (not back to back).

During the first weeks of school, you will take an exam and complete a book talk for either book. These are designed for you to demonstrate your careful and thoughtful reading. For the book talk, you will make an appointment with your teacher for before school, at lunch, or after school during the first few weeks. Bring your annotations and journals to that appointment. During it, you will prove your thoughtful reading by engaging in a three to five minute discussion based on questions and text selections presented by your teacher, so read carefully.

Additionally, there will be class lessons and a writing assignment designed around the books.

You may purchase the book or check it out from the public library. If you are unable to do either, please contact Shawna Bell, before July 15<sup>th</sup>, at [bells@scusd.edu](mailto:bells@scusd.edu) for further instructions.

**You must also bring the books to class, beginning the first day. You will need the book for the first few weeks of school.**

We hope that you enjoy your reading and your summer!