In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to strengthen reading skills, increase academic achievement, foster a love for reading, and empower students to become lifelong learners.

Select a memoir for your summer reading. A memoir, by definition, covers a specific period of time or experience within a person's life. It is narrative nonfiction and provides a glimpse into the life and experiences of another real person. You may select any memoir that you have not previously read. If you can purchase or find your own copy, you will be able to annotate in the margins. Otherwise, you will need sticky notes or lined paper for your annotations.

Directions:
READ and ANNOTATE your book carefully. Annotating helps the reader to stay actively engaged with the text and boosts comprehension as well as the retention of ideas. Your annotations should be handwritten either in the book, on sticky notes in the book, or on a separate sheet of paper.

Focus on FIVE powerful (e.g., “Wow!”, “Interesting!” “Wasn’t expecting that!”) or well-written (e.g., “Great imagery!” “Ok...I see what the author did there…!”) passages. For each of the five passages, explain your thinking and be ready to share with a partner or in a group.

The assignment will be due the first day of class and will launch our 2019-2020 school year as we dive into narrative non-fiction. Diligent, thoughtful effort will receive appropriate credit for the first quarter.

Memoir Suggestions:
A Child Called “It” by Dave Pelzer
A Girl Named Zippy by Haven Kimmel
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
A Million Little Pieces by James Frey
A Piece of Cake by Cupcake Brown
A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson
A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle
Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors by Piers Paul Read
All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot
All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir by Nicole Chung
Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
Another Planet: A Teenager in Suburban by Tracey Thorn
Becoming by Michelle Obama
Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin
Born Free: A Lioness of Two Worlds by Joy Adamson
Born Standing Up: A Comic's Life by Steve Martin
Bossypants by Tina Fey
Cash by Johnny Cash

Chickens, Mules and Two Old Fools: Tuck into a Slice of Andalucían Life by Victoria Twead

Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country by Pam Houston

Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

Dry by Augusten Burroughs

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Escape by Carolyn Jessop

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Loung Ung

Free Country: A Penniless Adventure the Length of Britain by George Mahood

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel

Girl, Interrupted by Susanna Kaysen

Glass Half Full by Sarah Jane Butfield

Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh

Heavy: An American Memoir by Kiese Laymon

I Grew My Boobs in China by Savannah Grace

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster by Jon Krakauer

Journey Enough: A Memoir by Sarah McColl

Just Kids by Patti Smith

Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly by Anthony Bourdain

Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls: A Memoir by Tara Kira Madden

Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's by John Elder Robison

Lucky by Alice Sebold

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive by Stephanie Land

Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl

Marley and Me: Life and Love With the World’s Worst Dog by John Grogan

Maus: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed by Lori Gottlieb

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

Naked by David Sedaris

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

Naturally Tan: A Memoir by Tan France

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi

Prozac Nation by Elizabeth Wurtzel


Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs

Seriously Mum, What’s an Alpaca? by Alan Parks

Seven Years in Tibet by Heinrich Harrer

Sliding on the Snow Stone by Andy Szpuk

Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!: Adventures of a Curious Character by Richard Feynman

Survival in Auschwitz by Primo Levi

That Bear Ate My Pants! by Tony James Slater