

Book List

In the first unit of English 101, we explore the idea of equality and adversity. We will begin the semester with a quiz on your selected text and will spend the first few weeks discussing your summer reading and completing projects and assessments associated with your memoir (so please read the book).

Most of the below books are memoirs, and they all explore the ideas of equality or adversity. Please choose one of the below texts for this year's summer reading. The title of each book is linked to Amazon, so you can click the link to read a synopsis of the text. Finally, please understand that some of these books contain mature language and situations. If you don't like a book, put it away and pick a different one! :) If you have questions, please email [Mrs. Blalock](mailto:Mrs.Blalock). Happy reading!

Title	Author	Short Blurb
What is a Girl Worth?	Rachael Denhollander	<p>Written by Rachael Denhollander, Recipient of <i>Sports Illustrated's</i> Inspiration of the Year Award and one of <i>Time's</i> 100 Most Influential People (2018).</p> <p>Rachael Denhollander's voice was heard around the world when she spoke out to end the most shocking US gymnastics scandal in history. The first victim to publicly accuse Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics team doctor who sexually abused hundreds of young athletes, Rachael now reveals her full story for the first time.</p>
The Men We Reaped	Jesmyn Ward	<p>Two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward (<i>Salvage the Bones, Sing, Unburied, Sing</i>) contends with the deaths of five young men dear to her, and the risk of being a black man in the rural South.</p> <p>In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five young men in her life—to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: Why?</p>
The Blindside	Michael Lewis	<p>When we first meet him, Michael Oher is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football, and school, after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game where the quarterback must be protected at any cost.</p>
Escape from Camp 14	Blaine Harden	<p>The heartwrenching <i>New York Times</i> bestseller about the only known person born inside a North Korean prison camp to have escaped.</p> <p>North Korea's political prison camps have existed twice as long as Stalin's Soviet gulags and twelve times as long as the Nazi concentration camps. No one born and raised in these camps is known</p>

		<p>to have escaped. No one, that is, except Shin Dong-hyuk.</p> <p>In <i>Escape From Camp 14</i>, Blaine Harden unlocks the secrets of the world's most repressive totalitarian state through the story of Shin's shocking imprisonment and his astounding getaway.</p>
The Other Wes Moore	Wes Moore	Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence?
Educated	Tara Westover	<p>#1 NEW YORK TIMES, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AND BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER • One of the most acclaimed books of our time: an unforgettable memoir about a young woman who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University</p> <p>Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent...</p>
Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game	Michael Lewis	<i>Moneyball</i> is a quest for the secret of success in baseball. In a narrative full of fabulous characters and brilliant excursions into the unexpected, Michael Lewis follows the low-budget Oakland A's, visionary general manager Billy Beane, and the strange brotherhood of amateur baseball theorists. They are all in search of new baseball knowledge—insights that will give the little guy who is willing to discard old wisdom the edge over big money.
Into Thin Air	John Krakaur	A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer's—in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for <i>Into Thin Air</i> , Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.
The Glass Castle	Jenette Wells	<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.
Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina	Michaela DePrince	<p>The extraordinary memoir of an orphan who danced her way from war-torn Sierra Leone to ballet stardom, most recently appearing in Beyonce's <i>Lemonade</i> and as a principal in a major American dance company.</p> <p>Michaela DePrince was known as girl Number 27 at the orphanage, where she was abandoned at a young age and tormented as a "devil child" for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life.</p>

The Finest Hours	Michael J. Tougias	<i>The Finest Hours: The True Story of the US Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue</i> tells the story of the shipwreck of two oil tankers and the harrowing Coast Guard rescue when four men in a tiny lifeboat overcame insurmountable odds and saved more than 30 stranded sailors.
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.
The Pale Faced Lie	David Crow	Growing up on the Navajo Indian Reservation, David Crow and his three siblings idolized their dad, a self-taught Cherokee who loved to tell his children about his World War II feats. But as time passed, David discovered the other side of Thurston Crow, the ex-con with his own code of ethics that justified cruelty, violence, lies—even murder...
It's All Over but the Shoutin'	Rick Bragg	This haunting, harrowing, gloriously moving recollection of a life on the American margin is the story of Rick Bragg, who grew up dirt-poor in northeastern Alabama, seemingly destined for either the cotton mills or the penitentiary, and instead became a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for <i>The New York Times</i> . It is the story of Bragg's father, a hard-drinking man with a murderous temper and the habit of running out on the people who needed him most.