

-from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien: "Stories are for joining the past to the future."

## Valwood Summer Study

### English I

*Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.*

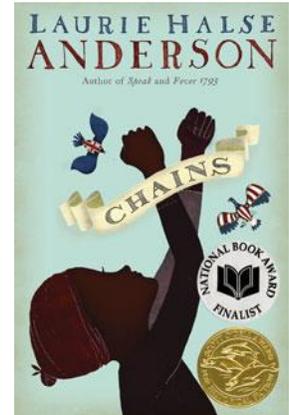
#### Assignment 1:

**Read *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. As you read, do all of the following:**

- **Annotate the book.**

#### **Tips for annotation:**

Avoid the use of highlighters.  
Underline key words or phrases and memorable sentences or passages.  
Identify unfamiliar words  
Write questions in the margins about something you don't understand  
Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing  
Note the use of literary devices  
Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.



- **Consider how the book deals with the following topics:**

Friendship  
Freedom  
Courage  
Loyalty  
Rebellion  
Justice  
Arrogance  
Ignorance

- **Pay attention to the quotations at the beginning of each chapter.** They come from primary sources. A **primary source** refers to first-hand information that was created at the time of an event. Primary sources can be newspaper articles, speeches, court documents, letters, etc. In her book, Laurie Halse Anderson uses excerpts from primary sources to foreshadow the plot, add historical context, or contrast the plot and history.

#### Assignment 2:

Select one chapter and **write an essay** in which you explain why the author chose the quotation for that chapter. Support your response with clear, relevant, and specific support from the chapter (**textual evidence**). Avoid plot summary. Your response should include two direct quotations, both documented with the page number. The paper will be no more than three paragraphs and typed in MLA style (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced throughout, etc.) See this link for guidance, if necessary: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**Submit the paper on the first day of class, and be prepared for a quiz within the following week.**

**Keep learning as you enjoy your summer break!**

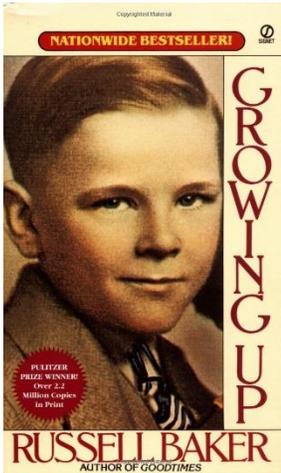
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## Valwood Summer Study

### English II

*Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.*

1. Read *Growing Up* by Russell Baker.
2. Annotate the book, and consider the following topics as you read:



- family (nuclear and extended versions)
- work (for children and adults)
- historical events that affect daily life
- the impact of school
- money (what it can and cannot do)
- change (how it happens; who or what makes it happen)
- communication (the role of letters, newspapers, conversation)
- moving (the advantages and disadvantages)

#### **Tips for annotation:**

Avoid the use of highlighters.

Underline key words or phrases and memorable sentences or passages.

Identify unfamiliar words

Write questions in the margins about something you don't understand

Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing

Note the use of literary devices

Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.

3. After reading the book, write a theme statement based on one of the topics above. The theme statement is a unifying generalization about life, stated or implied by the story. It should be a complete sentence.

Examples: "Loyalty to country often inspires people to create great art."

"Life may become difficult for people unable to adapt."

[Avoid statements that reduce the theme to some familiar saying, such as "You can't judge a book by its cover."]

4. Write a paper in which you **support your theme statement with clear, relevant and specific support from the book**. Avoid plot summary. Your response should include three direct quotations, all documented with the page number. The paper will be no more than three paragraphs and typed in MLA style (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced throughout, etc.) See this link for guidance, if necessary: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

**Submit the paper on the first day of class, and be prepared for a quiz within the following week.**

**Know what's going on in the world.** Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news in fields that interest you: science, history, math, economics, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.

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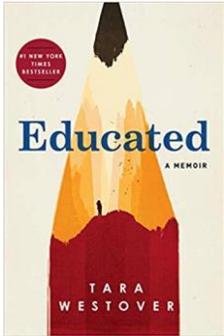
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## Valwood Summer Study

### English III

*Note: Obtain your own copy of the book, and bring it to class when school begins.*

1. **Read *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.**
2. **Annotate the book and consider the following topics as you read:**



- advantages and disadvantages of community
- relationships (within families and with friends)
- what it means to be educated
- how we learn
- survival
- opportunities
- risk-taking
- mentors

#### **Tips for annotation:**

Avoid the use of highlighters.

Underline key words or phrases and memorable sentences or passages.

Identify unfamiliar words

Write questions in the margins about something you don't understand

Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing

Note the use of literary devices

Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.

3. **After reading the book, write a paper in response to one of the following prompts.**

Include at least three pieces of textual evidence to support the claim(s) you make. Document the quotations with the page number, as illustrated below. The paper will be no more than three paragraphs and typed in MLA style (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced throughout, etc.) See this link for guidance, if necessary: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

- Westover writes, "My life was narrated for me by others. Their voices were forceful, emphatic, absolute. It had never occurred to me that my voice might be as strong as theirs" (197). Write an essay that traces the evolution of Westover's weak voice into a strong voice, capable of telling her story. Include textual evidence, documented with page numbers.
- What person in the book had the most profound impact on Westover's life? Write an essay, characterizing the person you choose. In your essay, consider how the character functions in the book as a whole and NOT on one particular episode in the book. Include textual evidence, documented with page numbers.

**Submit the paper on the first day of class, and be prepared for a quiz within the following week.**

4. Know what's going on in the world. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news or listen to a podcast about subjects that interest you: science, history, math, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.

5. **Watch one film from each column.**

Citizen Kane (1941)

12 Angry Men (1957)

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)

The Color Purple (1985)

Field of Dreams (1989)

#### **Documentaries**

Fog of War: Eleven Lessons...of Robert MacNamara (2004)

March of the Penguins (2005)

Food, Inc. (2009)

Trashed (2012)

Reconstruction: America After the Civil War (2019)

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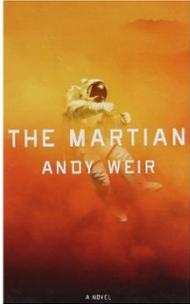
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## Valwood Summer Study

### English IV

*Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.*

1. Read *The Martian* by Andy Weir.
2. Annotate the book as you read, and consider the following topics:



Survival  
Sense of humor  
Problem-solving  
Isolation  
Guilt  
Commitment  
Security  
Suspense

#### **Tips for annotation:**

Avoid the use of highlighters.  
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Identify unfamiliar words  
Write questions in the margins about something you don't understand  
Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing  
Note the use of literary devices  
Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.

3. After reading the novel, **write a paper** in response to **one** of the following prompts. Include at least three pieces of textual evidence to support the claims you make. The paper will be no more than three paragraphs and typed in MLA style (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced throughout, etc.) See this link for guidance, if necessary:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
  - A survival story has to resonate on a universal level to be effective, whether it's set on a desert island or another planet. In any setting, life includes challenges. How important are those challenges in keeping life vital?
  - Who knew potatoes, duct tape, and '70s reruns were the key to space survival? How do each of these items represent aspects of Mark's character that help him survive?
  - What makes us root for a character to live in a survival story? In what ways do you identify with Mark? How does the author get you to care about him?

**Submit the paper on the first day of class, and be prepared for a quiz within the following week.**

4. Watch the movie.
5. Read each of the following articles about the science related to the book/movie.

[Andy Weir - The Martian: How Science Drove the Plot](#)  
[Author Of 'The Martian' Talks About The Science Behind The Book](#)  
[Andy Weir and his book 'The Martian' may have saved NASA and the entire space program](#)

Know what's going on in the world. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news in fields that interest you: science, history, math, economics, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.

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