

## **Honors English II Summer Assignment, 2019**

### **J. Goodwin/ M. Hittepole, WKHS**

#### **Part I: Memoirs--Choose one.**

##### ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance, 2016.**

“From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.”

##### ***The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls, 2006.**

“What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

#### **Part II: Non-Fiction--Everyone reads this one!!**

##### ***Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-Five Years Among the Poorest Children in America*, Johnathan Kozol, 2012.**

“In this powerful and culminating work about a group of inner-city children he has known for many years, Jonathan Kozol returns to the scene of his previous prize-winning books, and to the children he has vividly portrayed, to share with us their fascinating journeys and unexpected victories as they grow into adulthood.” (Excerpted from Amazon)

## Part III--Due the Monday of the second week of school

As you read Kozol's *Fire in the Ashes* and your choice memoir, think about the attitudes listed below that middle class people often express about the poor. Evaluate to what extent your readings this summer reveal them to be true. Ask yourself: *How do these texts refute (challenge) these stereotypes; how do these texts reinforce them, if at all?*

As you read, find compelling evidence in the form of examples and quotations that refute/support these stereotypes. Type out your textual evidence organized in this way: number your quotes according to stereotype by book title. Be sure to keep track of page numbers using **parenthetical documentation**, put **quotation marks** around passages you lift word for word, and to identify whether your passage **supports or refutes** each statement. You must have **20 pieces of textual evidence** total, and you must have at least **one piece of evidence for each of the seven statements**. As you assemble your list of evidence, you must **draw evenly from both texts**, and you must **draw evenly from within each text** as a whole. Quotation gathering should reflect a full reading of each text.

**A fully edited, organized, and typed copy is due at the beginning of class on the first day of school. All work must be your own. It is not a collaboration with anyone else.** This document will assist you in class discussion and in writing a mini-synthesis paper on the topic of poverty in quarter 1.

**Failure to read the required texts/complete this assignment will result in an automatic 0 and a mandatory parent conference to discuss whether your placement in this honors course is appropriate.**

### 7 Stereotypes About People Who Are Poor:

1. "Poor people are poor because they are lazy."
2. "Poor people are poor because they are bad at budgeting."
3. "It's one thing to be poor, but there's no excuse for being dirty."
4. "Some kids are just born bad."
5. "Kids who are on the street/ in trouble with the law are that way because their parents don't care about them."
6. "In America, everyone is provided with a free public education; in order to live the American dream, all they have to do is take advantage of it."
7. "Nothing can be done to help the poor. They have to learn to help themselves."

# Poverty Stereotypes Self Evaluation and Promise of Integrity

Please read the following statement, and then sign and date it:

I certify that no unauthorized assistance has been received or given in the completion of this work. All work is my own. I have not used any website or outside source to read the books or create my outline. If plagiarism is discovered, I understand it could result in a zero for the assignment. Due the first day of school.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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Please answer the following questions regarding the work you produced for the summer assignment:

- 1) Circle one: I read *Hillbilly Elegy* I read *Glass Castle*
- 2) How many pieces of textual evidence **total** did you gather and produce for this assignment? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How many pieces of textual evidence were drawn from *Fire in the Ashes*? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How many pieces of textual evidence were drawn from the choice book (*Glass Castle* or *Hillbilly Elegy*)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Overall, how many pieces of textual evidence did you produce that supported the stereotypes? \_\_\_\_\_ How many pieces of textual evidence refuted the stereotypes? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) **Circle one:** I used parenthetical documentation for (all/most/some/none) of the pieces of textual evidence I produced.
- 7) **Circle one:** I took care to put quotation marks around (all/most/some/none) of the passages I reproduced word-for-word.

**8) Circle the statement that best reflects your work:**

All of my textual evidence is pulled from one section or a small portion of each book.

Most of my textual evidence is pulled from a particular section of each book.

My evidence was evenly drawn from one book, but the evidence I drew from the second book is a bit unbalanced.

My evidence was pretty evenly drawn from the entirety of each of the books.

**9) The assignment required you to have at least one piece of evidence for each of the seven stated stereotypes. Please indicate how many pieces of evidence you have per stereotype and write that number after each statement in the place provided.**

\_\_\_\_\_ "Poor people are poor because they are lazy."

\_\_\_\_\_ "Poor people are poor because they are bad at budgeting."

\_\_\_\_\_ "It's one thing to be poor, but there's no excuse for being dirty."

\_\_\_\_\_ "Some kids are just born bad."

\_\_\_\_\_ "Kids who are on the street/ in trouble with the law are that way because their parents don't care about them."

\_\_\_\_\_ "In America, everyone is provided with a free public education; in order to live the American dream, all they have to do is take advantage of it."

\_\_\_\_\_ "Nothing can be done to help the poor. They have to learn to help themselves."

**10) Please explain to what extent the following statement is true: My summer work was submitted on time, and is edited, organized and typed.**

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**11) The grade I deserve is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ because**

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