

2016 Summer Reading Assignment  
English Department  
Grades 9-10

For students entering Grades 9 and 10 in Fall 2016:

The Summer Reading Committee has chosen the following book for your summer reading requirement. In addition, you will be expected to complete the writing assignments below. A rubric is included for your reference. These assignments are due the first day of school. We hope you enjoy this book.

**“Girl At War” by Sara Nović**

Zagreb, 1991. Ana Jurić is a carefree ten-year-old, living with her family in a small apartment in Croatia’s capital. But that year, civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, splintering Ana’s idyllic childhood. Daily life is altered by food rations and air raid drills, and soccer matches are replaced by sniper fire. Neighbors grow suspicious of one another, and Ana’s sense of safety starts to fray. When the war arrives at her doorstep, Ana must find her way in a dangerous world.

New York, 2001. Ana is now a college student in Manhattan. Though she’s tried to move on from her past, she can’t escape her memories of war—secrets she keeps even from those closest to her. Haunted by the events that forever changed her family, Ana returns to Croatia after a decade away, hoping to make peace with the place she once called home. As she faces her ghosts, she must come to terms with her country’s difficult history and the events that interrupted her childhood years before.

Moving back and forth through time, *Girl at War* is an honest, generous, brilliantly written novel that illuminates how history shapes the individual. Sara Nović fearlessly shows the impact of war on one young girl—and its legacy on all of us. It’s a debut by a writer who has stared into recent history to find a story that continues to resonate today.

**Assigned Novel for Grades 9-10:**

*Girl at War* Sara Nović

<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/237988/girl-at-war-by-sara-novic/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Girl-at-War-A-Novel/dp/0812996348>

**Assignment for Grades 9-10:**

**Part 1. Reading Report**

*Instructions:* Choose **one** of the following questions to answer in depth in a well-detailed essay. Be sure to include a substantial amount of relevant evidence from the novel in your essay. Your essay should be one to two pages in length, typed and double-spaced, in Times New Roman size 12 font.

Option 1. Describe a memorable passage from the book, including at least 3 details from that passage. This passage should be about a character’s *thoughts or feelings* in response to another person or event in the story.

Why is this passage significant to the story?  
Why is it significant to you?

Option 2. Relate one character or one event in the story to your personal experience by describing that character or event and then describing a personal experience that happened to you or someone you know.

How did that personal experience help you to understand that character or event?  
How was that character or event in the novel similar to –or different from—the actual experience?

Option 3. Relate one of the following themes to at least one character and one event in the novel:  
--coming of age  
--war  
--one of the 8 stages of genocide: classification, symbolization, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, extermination, denial.

Use this link for an explanation of the 8 stages of genocide:  
<http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesofgenocide.html>

Where and in whom is your chosen theme evident in the novel?  
How is that theme addressed?  
What message does the writer seem to be conveying through that theme?

## Part 2. Creative Project

*Instructions:* From the following activities, choose and complete ONE activity. All activities must be completed and submitted when we return to school in August.

### A. Comic book/manga/graphic novel

*Construct a multi-page visual and text based document that demonstrates the following*

1. Important scenes/events - multiple panels demonstrating understanding of the plot, characters, setting, etc.
2. Characters - interpret characters from the text through detailed illustrations
3. Captions/Text - use of text, words, dialogue to synthesize the arc of significant characters
4. Background/Landscape/props - Illustrations that represent the setting(s) of the text

### B. Video (news report, short film, TED talk, puppet theater, stop motion, etc.)

*Create a 2+ min. video demonstrating an understanding of the text with an awareness to*

1. Visual - Clarity of characters/plot, setting, etc.
2. Audio - Clarity of voice, background sound, music, etc.
3. Presence/Movement - Intentional movement, gestures, use of the frame to tell the story
4. Props/Objects - Use of props to strengthen delivery

### C. Book Starter Kit/Book in a Box/Scrapbook

*Construct an object that symbolically demonstrates your understanding of the text*

1. Important scenes/events
2. Characters - interpret characters from the text

3. Captions/Text - use of text, words, etc. to synthesize the arc of significant characters
4. Background/Landscape/props - Illustrations that represent the setting(s) of the text

**D. Book to Film Soundtrack**

*Construct an audiovisual product (slide presentation, video, scrapbook/booklet, etc.) that demonstrates your understanding of the text through an application of the themes of the chosen text*

1. Which songs, when they would play in the film, which aspect does the song connect to/represent
2. Lyrics, audio that connects to characters, setting, plot, etc.

**SUMMER READING 2016 EVALUATION RUBIC Grades 9-10**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /50

Assignments	EXCELLENT (25-20)	SATISFACTORY (19-15)	UNSATISFACTORY (14-10) MISSING (0)	SCORE
<b>Assignment I: Reading Report</b> <b>I. Passage describing a person's response to an event (thoughts and feelings) OR</b> <b>II. One interesting person or event related to personal experience OR</b> <b>III. Relation of one theme to a character and event in the novel</b>	The Reading Report provides a well-detailed answer to the question chosen and shows a perceptive understanding of the characters, events, and themes of the novel.	The Reading Report provides an adequately detailed answer to the question chosen and demonstrates a basic understanding of the characters, events, and themes of the novel.	The Reading Report provides an inadequate answer to the question chosen; details are scarce and do not show an adequate understanding of the characters, events, or themes of the novel.	
<b>Assignment II: Creative Project</b> <b>A. A. Comic book/ manga/graphic novel</b> <b>B. Video</b> <b>C. Book Starter Kit/Book in a Box/Scrapbook</b> <b>D. Book to Film Soundtrack</b>	Product provides the audience substantial evidence of a thorough understanding of text. Product shows textual evidence, organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	Product provides the audience adequate evidence of a basic understanding of text. Product shows textual evidence, organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	Product provides the audience minimal evidence of a basic understanding of text. Product shows little textual evidence, poor organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and/or consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	

**N.B. Grades earned for this project will be factored into the first term grade in English.**