

Ten Days in a Mad-House: Summer Reading for Honors American Literature (HAMLit)

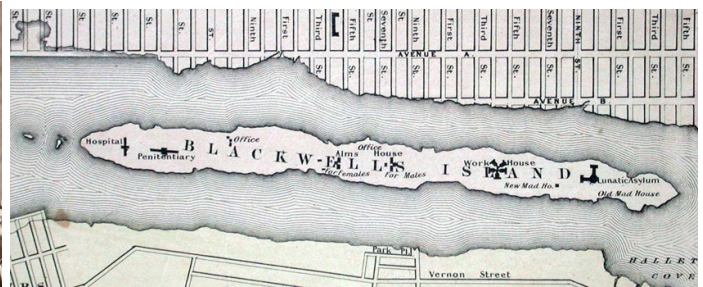
Online link = https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Bly_TenDays.pdf

Nellie Bly was 23 years old in 1887 when she entered an insane asylum in New York City to conduct investigative journalism. The introduction to this work tells that because of her reporting, New York City added \$1,000,000 more that year to care for those that were outside of society's definition of sane. Adjusted to the value of currency today from the year 1887 of her work, that total comes to about \$30,500,000. That is a pretty amazing outcome!

Your work for this summer is to read her account and to follow all directions on this sheet. You will stop after each chapter and summarize what you have read. This is individual work; you will not copy another's summaries nor use AI. You know what the penalty is for plagiarism at Pope High School, and it is not pretty...not something you want on your record.

Also, your summaries need to have detail. Your summary for Chapter 1 will not be this: "This woman goes undercover in an insane asylum." I have summarized the first chapter for you below. Read that chapter; read my summary; continue with your reading and summarize each chapter in your own words. Use literary present! Each summary must be at least three well written sentences. Edit your writing. Use different sentence types as well. **Chapter summaries need to be typed on a separate document to be turned in the first week of school. Also, keep a separate list of characters!**

BTW: This is the asylum she was put in, and here is a photo of her. She went on to a fascinating career!



Chapter I: Nellie Bly, journalist in Sept 1887 for *New York World* under the assumed name of Nellie Brown, acts like an indigent crazy girl to get the police to throw her into the Blackwell's Island Insane Asylum. After getting in, she makes no effort to keep up her charade. No one questions her insanity once she is in except for one doctor. She mentions that she witnessed some women there she does not consider insane. **Notice this summary is written in literary present tense! Yours will be in literary present tense as well!** If you don't know what literary present tense is, please google it!

Chapter II: Continue adding chapter summaries like mine above. **Again, summaries must be typed, and you must keep a separate list of characters.**

After Reading: When you finish this reading, think of something you would like to go undercover to expose. Provide 2-3 full sentences right after your chapter summaries describing the what and the why of your answer.

The second day of school, you will need a ½ to 1 inch binder...the kind that opens and closes with metal rings. You will also need a set of tabs. I know both of these are available at the Dollar Tree, @ \$1.25.