

HONORS LITERATURE & COMPOSITION II (10TH GRADE)

Please select **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

Book Title and Author	Description
<i>Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter</i> by Adeline Yen Mah	The account of a childhood growing up in a wealthy but emotionally abusive Chinese family, set against the backdrop of 20th-century China's political upheaval. This memoir explores themes of family rejection, resilience, cultural identity, and the pursuit of personal dignity and belonging.
<i>I am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai	The story of Malala, a Pakistani girl who stood up for girls' right to education under Taliban rule. After surviving an assassination attempt, she became a global advocate for education and women's rights. The book highlights her courage, the importance of education, and the power of one voice to inspire change.
<i>A Long Way Gone</i> by Ishmael Beah	This memoir recounts the experience of a child soldier who was forced into violence at a young age during Sierra Leone's civil war. It explores the impact of war on children, the loss of innocence, and the long path to healing and hope.
<i>Solito</i> by Javier Zamora	The account of the author's harrowing journey traveling alone from El Salvador to the United States to reunite with his parents. Faced with danger, fear, and unexpected kindness, the book explores the topics of immigration, family, and belonging.
<i>They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky</i> by Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak	This book shares the true story of three young Sudanese boys—known as Lost Boys—who were forced to flee their homes during Sudan's brutal civil war. It follows their journey across deserts, refugee camps, and eventually to America, revealing the horrors of war, the strength of family, and the enduring hope for a better future.

Important Note for Parents/Guardians: Please research accordingly before your child selects his/her book. You may wish to use resources such as Good Reads Reviews and Common-Sense Media to ensure your and your child's comfort with the material in the chosen book.

What Do I Do? Read attentively, annotate, and enjoy the book you select. Your annotations will help you on a writing assessment after the first two weeks of the semester, in which you will explore "coming of age": the journey from youth to adulthood, marked by key moments of growth, self-discovery, and understanding of the world around you. As you read your selected text this summer, pay attention to how the author changes over time—what challenges they face, what lessons they learn, and how their identity or understanding of the world shifts. While you read, annotate for the following:

- **Turning Points:** Identify key events or decisions that mark growth or transformation.
- **Personal Reflection:** Notice moments where the author reflects on past experiences—what do they realize or learn?
- **Relationships:** How do family, friendships, mentors, or culture influence their development?
- **Voice and Tone:** Consider how the author's voice and tone reflect their maturity over time.
- **Themes of Identity, Responsibility, or Independence:** Where do you see these themes emerge in their story?
- **Connections:** How does the author's real-life coming-of-age experience connect to your own life or other stories you've read?