Summer Reading Assignment
English 2 – Westside High School (2019-2020)

This summer’s media will be crowded with extraordinary stories of super heroes, galaxy-flying scoundrels, prehistoric beasts and monsters of legend. However, this assignment aims to remind you that inspiration can be found anywhere, especially in the stories of extraordinary, real, people. So, first, you are to choose a memoir (pronounced “MEM-war”) — an autobiographical story in which the author describes events from his or her life and the lessons he or she learned from them. Memoir is a fascinating genre, because anyone can write a memoir: athletes, actors, musicians, artists, dancers, activists, scientists, online content creators (i.e. YouTubers), and many more. Below, we’ve provided a list of popular and powerful memoirs, but feel free to choose any memoir that interests you. During and/or after your reading, complete the assignment below.

Figurative Language Booklet: Create a booklet that outlines your top ten favorite lines from the book that contain figurative language (i.e. simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, hyperbole, allusion, etc.). Each page will feature a new line, image, and a brief explanation of what it means. Each page must contain:
- The line from the text that contains figurative language
- Visual picture that illustrates the figurative element: hand-drawn (use color!), cut from a magazine, or found electronically
- Identification (label it!) of the literary device used (i.e. personification, imagery, metaphor, simile, etc.)
- 2-4 sentence explanation of the effect this language choice has on the reader (what does it do for us?)

Some Memoir Suggestions

Becoming – Michelle Obama
Born a Crime – Trevor Noah
Persepolis – Marjane Satrapi
Night – Elie Wiesel
You’re Never Weird on the Internet – Felicia Day
When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir – Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele
Single State of Mind – Andi Dorfman
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael Beah
Yes Please – Amy Poehler
Bossypants – Tina Fey
A Place to Stand – Jimmy Santiago Baca
Why Soccer Matters – Pelé and Brian Winter
My Life – Magic Johnson
Silent Gesture – Tommie Smith and David Steele
On the Line – Serena Williams and Daniel Paisner
Breaking the Surface – Greg Louganis and Eric Marcus
Jesse – Jesse Owens and Paul Neimark
Off Balance – Dominique Moceanu and Teri Williams
In the Water They Can’t See You Cry – Amanda Beard and Rebecca Paley