

English 11 AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment

Autobiography of a Face, by Lucy Greely

OR

If I Die in a Combat Zone, Box Me Up and Take Me Home, by Tim O'Brien

Assignment: Choose **three** of the following prompts, and write an essay response to each. Each response should be 1-1½ pages long and must include textual support (quotations) from the book.

Requirements:

- Focus on analysis; refer to specific support, but do not summarize.
- Type your responses in 12 pt. Times, double spaced, with 1" margins.
- Each response must be 1- 1½ pages long.
- You must have a total of 3 responses.
- Each response must include direct quotations with internal citations (see guide below).
- This assignment is due the first day of class; late assignments will receive a grade of 0. You must hand in a hard copy.
- All responses will be submitted to Turnitin.com during the first week of school. This is a web site that checks for plagiarism. This means that **you must have an electronic copy** of each response.

Prompts:

1. Although both books are memoirs, each also has a persuasive purpose, or theme. Identify one theme of the book and discuss how it is developed through the elements of writing, such as tone, style, and selection of detail.
2. Discuss the author's presentation of self. What does the author want the reader to believe about him/herself? Are we to trust him/her? Are we to sympathize? How does the author create the perception he/she wants us to have?
3. Discuss the structural elements of the book and how they impact the reader. You might consider organization, pacing (Where and how does the author slow the reader down? Where does the pace pick up?), or shifts in setting, tone, or point of view.
4. Both books reveal a rite of passage for their authors. Choose one significant way in which the author grows or learns, and explain how this change occurs. Consider significant events that contribute to the growth as well as the influences of other people. Your response should reflect what the author was like at the beginning as well as at the end of the book.
5. Discuss one difficult choice the narrator makes in the book. Elaborate on what the choice is, what factors influence the decision, and how the decision impacts the author.
6. Write a review of the book. Point out specific strengths and weaknesses. Also, address the literary as well as the social value of the book.

Grading: Following is the scoring guide that will be used for each of the three responses. (The assignment is worth a total of 60 points.) Use this as a reference as you compose your responses.

Scoring Guide:

- ❑ Addresses all parts of the prompt
- ❑ Accurately presents the events of the book
- ❑ Includes analysis; reveals depth of thought
- ❑ Avoids summary
- ❑ Provides sufficient support, including quotes with internal citations*
- ❑ Includes support taken from the entire scope of the novel
- ❑ Carefully edited
- ❑ Appropriate length, proper format

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***Internal Citations:** when you directly quote another author, you must acknowledge the source of the quote with an internal, or parenthetical, citation using the following rules:

- appears in parentheses at the end of the quote, or the end of the sentence in which the quote is imbedded
- includes the last name of the author and the page number
- if the end punctuation is a period, it appears after the citation
- if the end punctuation is a question mark or exclamation point, it appears inside the quotation marks

Sample Citations:

Immediately after the surgery, Lucy doesn't understand the significance of the change. "I was a hero" she says, revealing her naivety (Grealy 62).

She looks forward to the future, saying "The endlessness of summer stretched out before me, temptingly narcotic" (Grealy 62).

When her sisters are polite after the surgery, Lucy understands that her relationship with her family has fundamentally changed. She says, "I knew that a chasm had opened between us. How could I explain that the way I felt now was actually *better*?" (Grealy 62)