

## **English 11 Summer Work: *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green**

*The Anthropocene Reviewed* is a collection of personal essays evaluating various artifacts from the Anthropocene era, the proposed name for the current geologic period when human activity has been the dominant force on the planet. John Green's essays skillfully connect personal experience with the social, cultural, and environmental concerns of our age. The book is adapted from his podcast of the same name. *The Anthropocene Reviewed* won the Goodreads Choice for Non-Fiction 2021 award.

John Green is a well-known writer of young adult fiction. His novels include *Looking for Alaska*; *An Abundance of Katherines*; *Paper Towns*; *The Fault in Our Stars*; *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*; and *Turtles All the Way Down*. *The Anthropocene Reviewed* is his first non-fiction book. His work has been honored with a Printz Medal, a Printz Honor, and an Edgar Award, and several of his novels have been adapted into feature films. He and his brother co-host several online video projects, including Vlogbrothers; Crash Course; and the charity venture, Project for Awesome. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife and children

### **Writing Exercises**

**Hi rising Galloway juniors! Use the questions below to guide your reading and thinking. Then, answer the questions in your summer reading journal (provided by your English teacher) and be prepared to discuss your responses when school starts in August.**

**In addition, remember that it's important to annotate, or interact with a text, as you read. As you naturally have ideas, feelings, questions, or make mental connections to other things in your world based on the bit of text you just read, you need to pause and jot down those thoughts.**

**[Make your own bookmark](#). Just print the bookmark, cut along the lines and you'll have easy access to annotation-inspiration as you read.**

**Enjoy.**

**—Ms. Crowell and Ms. Broderick**

1. John Green's *The Anthropocene Reviewed* is about reviewing what it means to be a human. Think about an experience you have had that has greatly impacted your life and review it in the same manner he does in his book.
2. "Bonneville Salt Flats": This story is about a lake that transformed into salt flats. Think about all of the different iterations of yourself and the path that brought you to Galloway. Knowing everything you know now, what would you tell the younger version(s) of yourself?
3. "Scratch 'n' Sniff Stickers": This story is about childhood longing. Think about the nostalgia of home. Is there something in your life that transports you back to a specific space and time?

4. “Lascaux Cave Paintings”: This story is about discovery and preservation of the past. You are not the first student to come to Galloway, and you will not be the last. Think about what kind of mark you want to leave while you are here for future students to behold.
5. “Halley’s Comet”: Think about the roadmap you would like to take as you navigate Galloway. Write about five things that are on your bucket list to complete while you are a student here.
6. “You’ll Never Walk Alone”: This story is about the crowd experience. While you are an individual at Galloway, you are sharing these four years with other groups such as other juniors, seniors, sophomores, and even freshmen. Write about a time at Galloway when you felt as though you were part of a larger collective and not walking alone.
7. “Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance”: This story is about the known and unknown. First, it’s about three farmers on their way to a dance, but they do not know they are on their way to war as well. Think about a picture that was taken in the last year. What were your expectations and goals in relation to where you are now?
8. “Academic Decathlon”: This story is about rising to the occasion as part of a team, and it shows that all team members are important and contribute to the success of the collective. Write about an experience in which you exceeded your own expectations.
9. “The Hot Dogs of Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur”: This story is about an experience meeting (or exceeding) the expectations of that experience. Think about your journey at Galloway so far. How has the experience met the hype?
10. “Auld Lang Syne”: This story is about longing for something past. Think about something in your life that you would miss if it were not there. Write about the kind of longing that is related in this story with regard to that subject.