

**2024 Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Ms. Durham**  
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**Task: Read and annotate selected short essays in**  
***50 Essays: A Portable Anthology 7th Edition* Edited by Samuel Cohen**

**ISBN: 9781319331658**

**Annotation Advice:**

There are many ways to interact with a text. Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don't know, make personal connections, and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotation with your enjoyment of reading.

**Guiding Questions:**

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

- 1) Which essays have the strongest openings that draw you in as a reader?
- 2) Which essays have the strongest closings?
- 3) Which essays have the strongest writing voice?
- 4) What connections do you see between essays?
- 5) What essays impact you the most as a reader (positively and negatively)? What techniques do those writers use?
- 6) What can essays convey that other forms of writing cannot convey?

**Very Important Information:**

***50 Essays: A Portable Anthology 7th Edition* Samuel Cohen** is available here:

<https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/50-Essays/p/1319331653>

You are responsible for purchasing the book on your own. **DO NOT** get an electronic version or rent the book.

You may be able to find used copies of the book on other websites but make sure you get a copy that is not already annotated.

Please finish reading and annotating the required essays **before the first day of school** and bring your book to your first English class.

Make sure you get the **7th Edition**. Earlier editions do not have the same essays in them.

**You should carefully read and annotate the essays that are listed below. You can, of course, read all of the essays but only the essays listed below are required.**

These essays will serve as crucial foundations for key ideas in the course and also provide us an opportunity to begin the year with meaningful discussions from our shared observations about our summer reading.

- “Graduation” Maya Angelou
- “Notes of a Native Son” James Baldwin
- “The Burning Desire for Hot Chicken” Danny Chau
- “Only Daughter” Sandra Cisneros
- “Clearcut: Explaining the Distance” Eli Clare
- “The Paranoid Style of American Policing” Ta-Nehisi Coates
- “Patriot Days” Samuel Cohen
- “Every Dog is a Rescue Dog” John Dickerson
- “On Dumpster Diving” Lars Eighner
- “The Ways We Lie” Stephanie Ericsson
- “Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted” Malcolm Gladwell
- “Going It Alone” Rahawa Haile
- “America Wasn’t a Democracy, Until Black Americans Made It One” Nikole Hannah-Jones
- “When Pink Ballet Slippers Won’t Do” Jenine Holmes
- “Salvation” Langston Hughes
- “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” Zora Neale Hurston
- “Guns in the Family” Walter Johnson
- “The Council of Pecans” Robin Wall Kimmerer
- “What’s Wrong with the Way We Work” Jill Lepore
- “The Fourth of July” Audre Lorde
- “The Ghosts in Our Machines” Matthew J.X. Malady
- “A Woman of Substance” Saima Mir
- “Two Ways to Belong in America” Bharati Mukherjee
- from *There There* Tommy Orange
- “I Just Wanna Be Average” Mike Rose
- “Where the Wild Things Go” Kathryn Schulz
- “Just Walk on By: Black Men and Public Space” Brent Staples
- “Breathe” Jerald Walker
- “The Refugee Crisis Isn’t About Refugees. It’s About Us.” Ai Weiwei
- “Professions for Women” Virginia Woolf
- “A Pet Tortoise Who Will Outlive Us All” Hanya Yanagihara
- “The Tyranny of Time” Joe Zadeh
- “Crying in H Mart” Michelle Zauner