



Westminster Christian Academy

9th Grade Summer Reading

Honors Freshman Expository Writing

[Everything Sad is Untrue](#) by Daniel Nayeri

ISBN 978-1-64614-000-8

Why are you reading this book?

- Through his autobiographical novel, Daniel Nayeri writes a story of his life that reflects his culture and background and life as an immigrant. He is a refugee from Iran, and his mother settles in Oklahoma where Nayeri recounts his experiences with classmates, who misunderstand him. Nayeri's "patchwork story" threads the pieces of his life into a larger tapestry. He tells his classmates and the reader stories of truth about his life experiences and incorporates Persian folklore in hopes of being heard.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in honors Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection. Nayeri's autobiographical novel is one account of how a person's identity is shaped.

What to look for as you read:

- Throughout the entire novel, underline or highlight and annotate key moments/stories, specific phrases, or impactful statements that reflect Nayeri's view of being an outsider.
 - **Why does Nayeri feel like an outsider as a 12-year-old boy?**
 - What *makes* him an outsider to the people around him?
 - What does he *experience* as an outsider?
 - What does he *feel* as an outsider?
 - What does he *hope* or *long* for?

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- Annotations
 - Annotations are not only key passages that are highlighted or underlined but also include written ideas that show your thinking during reading.
 - While reading, you should annotate by:
 - Highlighting or underlining at least 20-25 key passages that reflect Nayeri's revelations about his life story and being an outsider.
 - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note that make connections using:
 - Text to text: a connection between the text and another text that you've read
 - Text to self: a connection between the text and your life experiences
 - Text to world: a connection between the text and events in the world

