

Gr. 11 Non-fiction Outside Reading Booklist*: Lewis/ Lang 2019

Write an essay in which you answer the provided question.

Your answer may be an absolute yes, an absolute no, or a yes/no to some (specified) extent.

A no should provide an alternative.

Bates, Laura. *Shakespeare Saved My Life* - Shakespeare professor and prison volunteer Laura Bates discusses her time teaching Shakespeare to prisoners, how she became friends with convicted murderer Larry Newton, and how they bonded over the playwright.

- **Can and should our criminal justice system invest in rehabilitating our most violent criminals?**
- **What is the purpose of imprisonment? punishment, rehabilitation, prevention?**

Cain, Susan. *Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* - Explores the role introverts play in a world that is geared towards those who enjoy communicating with others and offers practical suggestions at how introverts can make sure their message is heard.

- **Is being an introvert a hindrance or asset to success in our society? (and what does the answer to this question mean about/for our society?)**

Eger, Edith Eva. *The Choice: Embrace the Possible* - The author provides advice on healing by intertwining her experiences as a Holocaust survivor and patients' case studies.

- **Is all suffering pointless (to be avoided at all costs) or does some/all suffering have value?**

Gawande, Atul. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* - Practicing surgeon Atul Gawande examines the limitations and failures of medicine in reference to aging, frailty, and death.

- **Is extending one's life (postponing death) worth sacrificing all other things (autonomy, family, comfort)? What role does the dying individual, his family, his doctor, his insurance company, and/or the government have in making decisions about the balance of these priorities in the context of end of life care/treatment?**

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers* - The author explores why some people are high achievers and others are not, citing culture, family, and upbringing as possible reasons some people are not as successful as others.

- **Is success primarily the result of the individual (talent, choices, hard work) or the result of external forces (societal, historical, cultural)? I recommend focusing on one type of success with which you are familiar in your essay (unlike Gladwell).**

Higashida, Naoki. *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen Year Old Boy with Autism* - Naoki Higashida, a thirteen-year-old autistic boy, demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds by answering more than fifty questions.

- **Is autism a “difference” or a “disability,” and how does your answer influence how we educate and treat people with autism? You may also consider the question of how autism research should be focused: curing, understanding, etc...**

Junger, Sebastian. *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*- Draws on history, psychology, and anthropology to discuss how the tribal connection--the instinct to belong to small groups with a clear purpose and common understanding--can satisfy the human quest for meaning and belonging. (Book Challenge Title)

- **How do the values and habits of modern society support or injure soldiers' (and others') resilience with regards to trauma?**
- **Does Junger's theories about PTSD among soldiers offer any insight to the social-emotional health of ordinary teenagers?**

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: a Year of Food Life* - Follows the author's family's efforts to live on locally- and home-grown foods, an endeavor through which they learned lighthearted truths about food production and the connection between health and diet.

- **Should the preference for local food over mass produced food be an ethical obligation in contemporary America?**
- **What does it mean to be an ethical consumer (of food, or anything else)?**

Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* - Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.

- **This book emphasizes the ethical obligation of scientists and doctors to receive informed consent before using someone's biological property for research. Consider the ethical considerations for *the patient* faced with consent: (When/Why) Is it morally right/permissible/wrong to refuse to allow one's biological property (body, organs, blood, etc.) to be used for medical education/research/procedures?**

Vance, J. D. *Hillbilly Elegy: a Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis* - Vance, a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, provides an account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm. J. D. Vance tells the true story

of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

- **Consider what Vance says about “learned helplessness” and “learned willfulness” (163). How do or to what extent do the values of our culture/family influence the shape of our lives: our success, our happiness, our physical or emotional health, our relationships, etc.**

Zomorodi, Manoush. *Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self* - Builds on the experiment of helping others unplug their devices and jump-start their creativity, including how to harness boredom's hidden benefits to increase productivity.

- **Is technology a support or impediment of creativity and productivity?**

Booklist updated 11/2018, Mrs. Pratt.

**annotated summaries taken from NHS Destiny Library catalog*