



# ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

## 2025 Summer Reading

### LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Teachers: Ms. Chelsea Layton, Ms. Emma Luem, Ms. Jessica Lorenz,  
Ms. Maggie Mitchell, Ms. Daniella Moshi

### ASSIGNMENT #1: EMPOWERED WOMEN CHOICE MEMOIR

Please select one book from the list below to read before the school year begins. You should choose a book from this list that you are interested in as you will use this book for your first essay.

*Some books discuss mature/adult content or may have graphic scenes. We urge you to discuss your book choice with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and read reviews of each book to ensure it is a proper fit.*

Memoir Options:

1. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
2. *Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers* by Michelle Obama
3. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
4. *Educated* by Tara Westover
5. *The Cat I Never Named* by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess
6. *Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance* by Simone Biles
7. *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
8. *Good for a Girl: A Woman Running in a Man's World* by Lauren Fleshman
9. *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren
10. *The Best We Could Do (graphic novel)* by Thi Bui

Directions:

- Purchase a *new or unmarked used* copy of the book.
- Read your book.
- **As you read**, use Post-It notes to annotate moments in the text that you related to, surprised you, confused you, made you happy, sad, angry, excited, etc. **Also, annotate moments where you see the author being an empowered woman, showing strength, or independence.**
- Your reading and annotating will be the foundational material for a future essay.

(continued)

## ASSIGNMENT #2: READING FOR FUN!

Throughout your years at St. Joseph's Academy, you will be expected to grow in your reading stamina by reading independent novels. Independent novels are books that you choose to read because you are interested in them and want to read for fun. You will be expected to read independent novels both in and outside of class. To increase your reading stamina and get you ready for independent novels, we highly encourage you to read at least ONE book (you are welcome to read more than one) of your choice over the summer in addition to the empowered woman memoir.

Optional Enrichment Book Choices:

If you are looking to challenge your reading stamina, improve your reading comprehension, and grow your vocabulary consider selecting a book from the options below to read this summer. These novels are often referenced in ACT/SAT questions and prompts on AP tests. If you would like to further your literary knowledge, please choose and read any of the selections from the list.

- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *The Secret Lives of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd