

## Summer Reading 8th Grade 2021-2022

### Part I: "Lincoln is Shot" by Jim Bishop (do not buy the book; this is a short story that can be found in Schoology)

**Instructions:** Read Jim Bishop's historical fiction short story of the night President Abraham Lincoln was shot. Then, travel back in your imagination to the night that John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln. You are to write your own version of what happened that night, assuming the identity of someone mentioned in the story or creating your own identity. The narrative account must be from that person's perspective, and it must include sensory details (what you saw, heard, felt, etc.) and facts from the story. While you have somewhat free reign over the creativity of your story, you must keep it time-period appropriate. In your reflection of that fateful night, include a beginning (who are you and how you came to be at the theatre that night), a middle (events you witnessed), and an ending (what happened after that night). Transport the reader back to the scene. Use vivid words to describe and language appropriate to the time and occasion. No need to add quotations from the story.

#### The Details:

- ❖ You may be any character in the story except Lincoln or Booth (you must be a human), or you may create a character of your own who could have been there that night
- ❖ Please keep your story to 1-3 pages typed using any legible font (MLA format not required)
- ❖ Booth's identity as the killer was not officially known the night of the assassination
- ❖ Content takes priority over the formal "stuff"
- ❖ Do your best to paint a vivid picture
- ❖ Feel free to add facts, but don't disregard the time period

#### The Grading:

- ❖ Vivid, accurate picture of events
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Appropriate language and details for the time period
- ❖ Required details included in your "Eyewitness Account"
  - April 14, 1865
  - Ford's Theatre
  - *Our American Cousin* starring Harry Hawk and Laura Keene
  - John Wilkes Booth
- ❖ Mechanics and such

**Total: 20 points**

\*You may do a little research to find out about Booth, Lincoln, or the theatre, but it isn't necessary or required to complete this assignment. The goal of this assignment is to get a general idea of what the night was like when Lincoln was shot, and to use that information to create your own narrative of that night. On our Washington, D.C. trip, we will actually get to visit Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House.

**Part II:** In addition to reading the short story “Lincoln is Shot” by Jim Bishop, you will also read one of the Holocaust stories listed below. **Choose any ONE of the following Holocaust Memoirs:**

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/step-step-phases-holocaust> background video

**Night by Elie Wiesel (Honors students are required to read this book)**

***The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson**

***The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank**

***The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom**

*Night*- the tragic account of Wiesel’s experience at Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps during World War II. This book is typically read in 9th grade.

*The Boy on the Wooden Box* - Leyson’s story of being the youngest child on Schindler’s list and his heart wrenching but inspiring story of survival.

*The Diary of Anne Frank*-details Frank’s life while she was hiding from the Germans during World War II.

*The Hiding Place*- ten Boom’s story of sacrificing her own comforts and part of her own personal room to give constant safety to the Jews.

**Task:** Create 4 dialectical journal entries, choosing at least 2 different types of responses. The text you select must represent a character trait of the main character in your story. The TE does not need to be spoken dialogue. In fact, it’s actually better if it is not spoken dialogue. You may copy as many sentences from the text as you’d like, just be sure to copy directly, word for word. Use proper MLA citation, including spacing and punctuation. Type using Times 12 pt. Font.

**Procedure:**

1. Type passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of the t-chart (*ALWAYS include the page number using MLA style*).
2. In the right column, type your response to the text (*ideas, insights, reflections, and comments on each passage*). Responses should be thorough and thoughtful. Quality is valued over quantity.
3. Label your response with one of the following codes:
  - (C) Connect- Make a connection to your life, the world, or another text. Be specific.
  - (R) Reflect- Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense- not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, human nature, or just the way things work?
  - (E) Evaluate- Make a judgment- what is the impact, influence, or motive?

**Sample Dialectical Journal Entry: *Night* by Elie Wiesel**

Passages from the Text	Response
“Some of the men spoke of God: His mysterious ways, the sins of the Jewish people, the redemption to come. As for me, I had ceased to pray. I concurred with Job! I was not denying His existence, but I doubted His absolute justice” (45).	(R) Elie is thoughtful and reflective, although he struggles to see God’s presence in his life as he endures such brutality. The things he has seen cause him to rethink his faith in a God of mercy. Sadly, going through difficulties often causes people to doubt God because they wonder how He could allow bad things to happen to good people. In Elie’s situation, he’s battling internally and feels a great sense of despair.

20 points