

2019 English Language Arts Summer Assignment

Available on our website francislewishs.org

Instructions for Incoming Tenth Graders

1. Read **one** text from the list provided for English Language Arts (see below); you can get a copy of the text at your local library or online.
2. Complete one text-analysis response, based upon your selected text, following the directions provided (see below).
3. Write two separate, complete paragraphs responding to the *Common Application* essay prompts provided (see below).

***All of your writing pieces should be typed and saved – preferably as a Google Doc.*

Submit your writing pieces (the text-analysis and *Common Application* responses) to your ELA teacher during the first week of class; the writing pieces will count as your first homework grades for the fall semester.

Assignment Guidelines and Requirements

- All work must be your own. Do not plagiarize. You will not receive credit for the assignment if your work is copied from any source.
- The text analysis essay is directly correlated to the text you are reading.
- The paragraphs responding to the *Common Application* essay prompts are modified personal statements.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please contact Carrie Huggins by email at chuggins@schools.nyc.gov.

1. Text Choices:

Something in Between by Melissa de la Cruz (fiction)

or

I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban (a young readers edition) by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick (non-fiction)

or

Maus 1 & 2 by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)

2. **Text-analysis directions:**

Your Task: Closely read one of the texts above and write a well-developed, text-based response of three paragraphs. In your response, identify a central idea in the text and analyze how the author's use of *one* writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis. Do *not* simply summarize the text.

Central Idea: The **central idea** is the **central**, unifying idea of the story, which ties together all of the other elements used by the author to tell the story. The **central idea** can be best described as the universal truth found in the story.

Guidelines: Use these guidelines when writing your text-analysis response.

Be sure to:

- Identify a central idea in the text
- Analyze how the author's use of *one* writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Examples include: characterization, conflict, denotation/connotation, metaphor, simile, irony, language use, point-of-view, setting, structure, symbolism, theme, tone, etc.
- Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

3. **Common Application prompts and directions:**

Your Task: Write **two, separate** well-developed paragraphs (7-10 sentences each) answering the questions below:

1. **Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?**
2. **Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.**