



# Summer Reading Assignment

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

The First Academy

## Assignment

### Novels

Students will be required to read **two** books over the summer:

Book 1 -

**Everyone reads** *The Red Bandana* by Tom Rinaldi.

Book 2 -

**Select one of the following biographies.** (You are welcome to choose from either list.)

#### Female Biographies

- *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: Friend of the Arts* by Beatrice Gormley
- *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* by Russell Freedman
- *Clara Barton, Founder of the American Red Cross* by Augusta Stevenson
- *DK Publishing: Amelia Earhart* by Tanya Lee Stone
- *Harriet Tubman: Freedom's Trailblazer* by Kathleen Kudlinski
- *Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of my Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me* by Condoleezza Rice
- *Laura Bush: America's First Lady* by Beatrice Gormley
- *Sonia Sotomayor: U.S. Supreme Court Justice* by Mary Oluonye

#### Male Biographies

- *The Great Little Madison* by Jean Frits
- *Teddy Roosevelt: Young Rough Rider* by Edd Winfield Parks
- *Douglas MacArthur: What Greater Honor* by Janet Benge
- *John Glenn: Just the Facts Biographies* by Tom Streissguth
- *Thurgood Marshall: Young Justice* by Montrew Dunham
- *Frederick Douglass: A Noble Life* by David A. Adler
- *Up Close: Robert F. Kennedy* by Marc Aronson
- *Martin Luther King, Jr: Young Man with a Dream* by Dharathula H. Millender

### Assignments

#### **The Red Bandana**

- Part 1 – The Essay  
The novel *The Red Bandana* tells the “inspirational story of Welles Crowther, whose decision, determination and sacrifice in the terror of 9/11 have inspired millions, and whose short life offers a lasting lesson on character, calling, and courage--in how we live, and in the legacy we choose to leave behind.” For this assignment, you will consider the theme of self-sacrifice as it related to the story as well as the Bible and write a short essay.

Consider the following questions:

- What is selflessness? Have you benefited from the sacrifice of others: in your family, with your friends, and/or by strangers?
- In what ways have you sacrificed for others? How did that impact them? How did that impact you?

- How do the following Bible verses relate to the life of Welles Crowther:
  - Matthew 16:25 - “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”
  - John 15:13 - “There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

You may also focus a part of the book that you felt most clearly represented the theme of the novel, or you may describe how the bandana became a symbol and discuss a symbol that impacted your life. **Write a 350-word paper that addresses some or all of the questions listed above.** (Keep the word count between 300-400 words.)

- Part 2 – The Interview  
Throughout the book we see how September 11th, though many years ago, continues to affect people in many different ways. Interview three different people that were alive during 9/11. (I encourage you to find someone who was at least 10 years old during the events, so that you can learn more perspective about it.) **Complete the Interview document attached to this file and bring into class.**

### **Selected Biography**

- Tree Map  
As a school we believe in having “Character before career, service before self, wisdom beyond scholarship, and participation as a way of life.” Our American heroes and heroines likewise practiced these four ways of life. **In the tree map attached to this file, identify how your chosen American hero/heroine demonstrated the TFA mission statement.**

## Interview 1

Name:

What was your age on 9/11?

What were you doing at the time?

How did 9/11 affect your life?

How do you believe 9/11 has continued to affect America?

## Interview 2

Name:

What was your age on 9/11?

What were you doing at the time?

How did 9/11 affect your life?

How do you believe 9/11 has continued to affect America?

## Interview 3

Name:

What was your age on 9/11?

What were you doing at the time?

How did 9/11 affect your life?

How do you believe 9/11 has continued to affect America?

**Tree Map-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Your American Hero Summer Reading Assignment**

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

**Character  
Before  
Career**

**Wisdom Beyond  
Knowledge**

**Service Before  
Self**

**Participation as  
a Way of Life**

Describe how your American Hero embodies the TFA mission statement in 50-75 words.