Name _____ Period _____

Creative Writing – Independent Outside Reading – Creative Nonfiction/Memoir

You must read a book-length work of creative nonfiction or memoir outside of class. It should be something you feel could benefit you as a writer, something you can learn from. Try to find something that will challenge you, trigger new ideas for you. In most of your English classes at SEHS, you have read books as a reader. This time, as with the fiction and poetry books, you will be reading as a writer.

You may read a book that you already have or one that you check out from the SEHS Library. You may want to visit the public library or a local bookstore. You are encouraged to bring your book to class and read it whenever you have extra time.

You will need to complete the "Nonfiction Response" packet, just like you did for the fiction and poetry books. Have Mr. Cantwell sign off on the "Teacher approval" spot at the top of the sheet before you begin reading. This is due **Friday, May 25th**. Be prepared to discuss the book with Mr. Cantwell and your classmates.

Your book should most likely be written by one author, about one topic. You are looking for creative nonfiction, not general nonfiction. Creative nonfiction tends to have one storyline; general nonfiction tends to be factual and may include multiple topics. If you aren't sure if a book is creative nonfiction or general nonfiction, ask Mr. Cantwell or Julie, or ask yourself this question: Does this book tell a story?

Book ideas:

- Think about an author you enjoyed reading in a previous SEHS English class and find a book by that author.
- Talk to your classmates about nonfiction books or memoirs they've enjoyed.
- Search the Library catalog for a topic you are interested in.
- See the list on the back for favorite authors and books from SEHS English staff.

The call numbers for nonfiction books range from 000-999, running along the outer walls of the Library. One good place to look is the 921 section, which includes biographies and autobiographies. This is a separate section in the Library, in front of the fiction section.

Here are nonfiction recommendations from the SEHS English department:

Recommended nonfiction books:

- Edward Abbey – *Desert Solitaire*
- John Berendt – *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*
- Karen Blumenthal – *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*
- Truman Capote - *In Cold Blood*
- Joan Didion - *The Year of Magical Thinking*
- Timothy Egan - *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*
- Nick Flynn - *Another Bullshit Night In Suck City*
- Alexandra Fuller - *Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight*
- Adam Hochschild – *King Leopold's Ghost*
- Peter Brown Hoffmeister – *The End of Boys*
- Phillip Hoose - *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*
- Mary Karr - *The Liar's Club*
- Jack Kerouac - *On The Road* (officially a novel, but basically a memoir)
- Erik Larson - *Devil in the White City*
- Aspen Matis – *Girl in the Woods*
- David Sedaris - *Dress Your Family In Corduroy and Denim*
- Jeannette Walls – *The Glass Castle*
- Elie Wiesel – *Night*
- Malcolm X – *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

Recommended authors:

(Some of these names appear above; they wrote other recommended books.)

- Bill Bryson
- Annie Dillard
- Timothy Egan
- Phillip Hoose
- John Krakauer
- David Sedaris
- Henry David Thoreau

Newer books in the Library:

- *In the Country We Love* by Diane Guerrero
- *Buffering* by Hannah Hart
- *Furiously Happy* by Jenny Lawson
- *Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- *Die Young with Me* by Rob Rufus
- *Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* by Pamela S. Turner