

# Pre-AP English 9 Summer Reading Assignment



## About Summer Reading:

- You will be reading two books:
  - one of the two nonfiction books listed here on page 1
  - one fiction — *Blackthorn Winter* — listed on page 2
- Any of the books may be purchased at a local bookstore or at an online site such as amazon.com. They may also be borrowed from your local library.

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## The NONFICTION BOOKS — Choose ONE of the following

### The first nonfiction choice: *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

#### Book Description

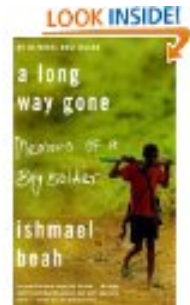
“At the age of 12, Ismael Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By 13, he’d been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. At 16, he was removed from fighting by UNICEF, and through the help of the staff at his rehabilitation center, he learned how to forgive himself, to regain his humanity, and, finally, to heal.”

#### About the Author

ISHMAEL BEAH was born in Sierra Leone in 1980.

Surviving the wars in his native land, he arrived in the United States in 1998 and finished high school at the United Nations International School in New York. He founded the Ishmael Beah Foundation to help former child soldiers (like himself) to improve their lives and to fit into society. He graduated from Oberlin College in 2004 and lives in Brooklyn, NY today.

Beah has spoken before the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, and other panels on children affected by war.



**Beah writes: “I would always tell people that I believe children have the resilience to outlive their sufferings, if given a chance.”**



**She writes: “I have always believed that there are far more good people in the world than bad ones and that most people want to be reminded of our shared humanity rather than our differences.”**

### The second nonfiction choice:

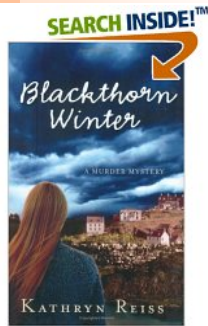
### *Funny in Farsi — A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas

#### About the Book

“In 1972, when she was 7, the author and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond Firoozeh’s father’s glowing memories of his graduate school years here. . . The story chronicles the American journey of Dumas’s wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father. . . ; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (or cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an array of weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot. An unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love, *Funny in Farsi* will leave us all laughing—without an accent.”

#### About the Author

FIROOZEH DUMAS has traveled throughout the United States since the publication of her book.



### Book Description

The last place fifteen-year-old Juliana wants to be is halfway around the world in Blackthorn, England, an idyllic seaside artists' colony her mother has dragged her off to while her parents weather a trial separation. Juliana misses her father terribly and doesn't understand why her mother needs to travel so far to resurrect her artistic self, which she claims to have lost in the marriage.

Soon after they arrive in the tiny village of Blackthorn, the artists' colony is set on its heels by the murder of one of its own. Juliana feels compelled to solve the crime, but she is shocked and frightened when it seems that clues in the matter are hitting a little too close to home. Can she figure out who the murderer is before anyone else--herself included--gets hurt?

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0152054790/>

Questions or concerns about the assignment should be directed when they arise to your assigned teacher. Please do not wait until the end of August, as we will be busy preparing our classrooms for your arrival. Prior to your assignment of teachers, you may contact any of us. If you do not receive a response in a timely manner (within a week or two), you should contact another teacher — after all, we may be vacationing.

Contact info:

Ms. Craig

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Mrs. Prunchak

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## The FICTION text — Everyone MUST read this book!

Project: The Poster will be worth 25 points

Create a poster (this should be on 1/2 sheet of poster board — 22" x 14 1/2") that illustrates one use of figurative language in the novel. The figurative language you may choose includes any one of the following:

#### alliteration

the repetition of the first consonant sound in a set or series of words

( example: "my funny, furry friend")

#### imagery

words that engage one of the five senses: sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch (example: "bright yellow daffodils" engages or uses the sense of sight)

#### metaphor

Speaking of one thing as if it were something else (example: "Charlie *is* a pig at the dinner table")

#### onomatopoeia

A type of word that sounds like the thing it is describing (example: "the gate *squeaked* as he pushed it open")

#### personification

attributing uniquely human qualities or characteristics to something that is not human (example: "the sun *smiled* upon the graduating seniors")

#### simile

a comparison, usually using "like" or "as", of two essentially dissimilar things (example: "Charlie eats *like* a pig at the dinner table")

**Your summer assignment is due the second day of class. Your teacher will give you further details on the first day of class.**

**You will need to be prepared to discuss both the nonfiction and fiction books in class. You will be given a writing assignment related to the books in September.**

### NOTES:

1. You should write the figurative language term and its definition on the front of the poster, along with the sentence in which the word occurs, as well as the page number on which you found your example.
2. Be sure that your poster includes the book's title and author's name spelled correctly.
3. Please put your name and the date on the back of the poster.
4. Your poster should be neat, artistically pleasing, and should show that you have read and understand all directions.
5. Your poster should be original, not resembling any other Pre-AP student's poster.

### SAMPLE POSTER:



### Program of Studies Correlation

- Analyze techniques that authors use to convey information about a character.
- Identify types of figurative language.
- Increase general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, reading, and writing.
- Identify the differing characteristics that distinguish the literary forms of fiction and nonfiction.
- Assess student understanding through discussion.
- Participate in small group learning activities by contributing group activity, ideas, and respectfully listening to and considering the views of others in the group.
- Develop speaking and listening skills to identify and solve problems through collaboration.
- Communicate the purpose of the writing.
- Distinguish one's own ideas from information created or discovered by others.
- Organize ideas for writing.