

**English 12 116080**  
**Summer Assignment**  
**2009-2010**

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**Course Materials:**

- Books are available in the public library or can be purchased at a local bookstore or online retail site.
- The Major Works Data Sheet can be found on the Oakton H.S. website.

**Due Dates:**

- The Major Works Data Sheet will be due the third week of school. The specific date will be determined by individual instructors the first week of school.

**Description of Assignments:**

Students at Oakton High School are required to fulfill Fairfax County Public School's summer reading requirements by reading books that open them up to subjects or experiences that they might not otherwise have.

Some of the books on the follow list deal with the darker side of human nature and may contain adult themes and coarse language. However, it is up to the student and the students' parents to choose the books that not only interest the student but meet with the approval of parents or guardians.

While reading their chosen books, students will be expected to complete a *Major Works Data Sheet*, which is posted on the Oakton High School website.

**This data sheet will be discussed during the first week of school at which point a due date for the document will be assigned.**

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Mariette Heavey at [Mariette.Heavey@fcps.edu](mailto:Mariette.Heavey@fcps.edu).

**Students are encouraged to read at least *one* book from the following list and complete the *Major Works Data Sheet*:**

*Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II*

Robert Kurson

Deep-wreck divers are used to operating with almost no headroom and in zero visibility, navigating by touch alone; it is a compliment to be told "When you die, no one will ever find your body." Despite the dangers, wreck divers are typically

weekend warriors, men who leave families and jobs behind to test themselves at two hundred feet down. Kurson's exciting account centers on two divers, John Chatterton and Robert Kohler, who in 1991 found an unidentified U-boat embedded in the ocean floor off the coast of New Jersey. The task of identifying it leads them to Germany, Washington, D.C., and the darkest corners of the submarine itself. Some of the most haunting moments occur on land, as when the divers research the lives of the doomed German sailors whose bones they swim among. Once underwater, Kurson's adrenalized prose sweeps you along in a tale of average-guy adventure.  
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*The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky*  
Farah Ahmed, Tamim Ansary

*The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky* recounts an epic journey. It deftly interweaves a childhood in Afghanistan, where the classrooms are naked chambers with only chalkboards on the walls, with an American adolescence, where teenagers struggle to decide whether to try out for school plays and where to go to college.

*An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography*  
Paul Rusesabagina

*An Ordinary Man* explores what the Academy Award-nominated film *Hotel Rwanda* could not: the inner life of the man who became one of the most prominent public faces of that terrible conflict. Rusesabagina tells for the first time the full story of his life—growing up as the son of a rural farmer, the child of a mixed marriage, his extraordinary career path which led him to become the first Rwandan manager of the Belgian-owned Hotel Milles Collines all of which contributed to his heroic actions in the face of such horror. He will also bring the reader inside the hotel for those one hundred terrible days depicted in the film, relating the anguish of those who watched as their loved ones were hacked to pieces and the betrayal that he felt as a result of the United Nation's refusal to help at this time of crisis.

*The Woman Warrior*  
Maxine Hong Kingston

Divided into five chapters, each of which is more or less self-contained, Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* explores the many forms of adversity that women face. Kingston uses women's stories to explore her own cultural history. As a first-generation Chinese American, she struggles to reconcile her Chinese cultural heritage with her emerging sense of herself as an American.

*Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World's Greatest Outlaw*  
Mark Bowden

The author of the bestseller *Black Hawk Down*, which depicted the U.S. military's involvement in Somalia, Bowden hits another home run with his chronicle of the manhunt for Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar. He traces the prevalence of violence in Colombian history as

background, and then launches into the tale of the dramatic rise and fall of "Don Pablo," as he was known. Packed with detail, the book shows how Escobar, a pudgy, uneducated man who smoked marijuana daily, ruthlessly built the infamous Medellin cartel, a drug machine that eventually controlled much of Colombian life. As Bowden shows, the impotence of the Colombian government left a void readily filled by Escobar's mafia. While not ignoring the larger picture e.g., the terrible drug-related murders that wracked the South American country in the late 1980s and early 1990s Bowden never loses sight of the human story behind the search for Escobar, who was finally assassinated in 1993, and the terrible toll the hunt took on many of its main players.. There's a smoking gun here: Bowden charges that U.S. special forces were likely involved in helping some of Colombia's other drug lords assassinate perhaps more than a hundred people linked to Escobar. There's no doubt, according to Bowden, that the U.S. government was involved in the search for Escobar after a 1989 airplane bombing that killed 100 and made him, in Bowden's words, "Public Enemy Number One in the world." This revelation highlights one of Bowden's many journalistic accomplishments here: he shows how the search for Escobar became an end in itself.

**Major Works Data Sheet**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Pub. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Significance of the opening scene:** (Please explain why the opening scene is important in setting up the rest of the book. Consider the setting, the conflict that is introduced, and the characters that are introduced.)

**Setting**

**Time Period:**

**Significance of the closing scene:** (Please explain why the closing scene is important. Does it bring together all aspects of the book and provide the reader with closure or does it leave unanswered questions. Why do you think the author chose to end the book like this?)

**Place:**

**Symbols and what they mean:** (a symbol is something that represents both itself and something else.)

1

2

3

**Possible theme(s) / Topics for Discussion in statement form: (COMPLETE SENTENCES)**

1

2

3

**Example of the author's style: (direct quotes w/ page numbers) *Style* meaning the words the author chooses, the types of sentences (long or short), figurative language (similes and metaphors)**

1.

2.

**Significance of style: (What do we learn about the author through the use of this style? What type of audience might this style appeal to?)**

1.

2.

# Memorable Quotes

Quotes w/ page numbers: (Choose quotes that are relevant to the story, that either tell us something about the plot, the conflict, or the characters.)	Significance: (Explain what these quotes tell us about the plot of the story, the conflict, or the characters.)
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

## Characters

Name	Role in the Story (Are the characters minor/major and what do they contribute to the story?)	Adjectives used to describe the characters. Please include page numbers.
1		
2		

# Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Adjectives
3		
4		
5		