

**12th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment:
“Do the Right Thing” with Ms. Candlin**

Part I. What makes a hero?

Introduction: Have you ever felt like you’re the star of the movie that is your life? Chances are, the answer is yes. We all tend to see ourselves as protagonists, even heroes in our life’s journey. Authors know this to be true and often tell stories about a singular character in order to explore the qualities that make a person heroic (or anti-heroic) within a specific set of circumstances. In order to prepare for our study of morality next year, you will learn about the archetype of the hero’s journey over the summer and then read a book in which the narrator fulfills or veers away from the archetype of the hero. Finally, you will write a 3 page paper, a short video or a visual representation that explains why you view the narrator as a hero or anti-hero.

Tasks:

1. Watch this video about the hero’s journey at least twice. Take notes or make an annotated drawing that captures the different stages of the hero’s journey:
<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-makes-a-hero-matthew-winkler>.

Then, read the definition of an anti-hero (at least twice) from an article by Jonathan Michael at Relevant.com:

“The “anti-hero” (also known as the flawed hero) is a common character archetype for the antagonist that has been around since the comedies and tragedies of Greek theater. Unlike the traditional hero who is morally upright and steadfast, the anti-hero usually has a flawed moral character. The moral compromises he or she makes can often be seen as the unpleasant means to an appropriately desired end—such as breaking a finger to get answers—whatever it takes for the protagonist to come to justice. Other times, however, the moral flaws are simply moral flaws, like alcoholism, infidelity, or an uncontrollable and violent temper.”

2. **Read:** Choose one of the novels or memoirs below. Do some research on the books beforehand in order to choose the one that fits your reading level and interest. As you read, track how the protagonist follows or veers away from the different stages of the hero’s journey. Is the narrator a hero or an anti-hero? Why? As you read, consider: is this narrator a moral person? Why or why not?

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

Decoded by Jay Z

Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld

Less than Zero by Brett Easton Ellis (Note that this novel contains some disturbing content, including rape and drug use.)

3. **Think/Write:** Write a 3 page paper, make a short video, write a poem or a rap, or create a visual representation that explains why you view the narrator as a hero or anti-hero. Make sure that your assignment includes evidence from the text in the form of summary, direct quotes, or a paraphrase.

If you are unable to purchase the novel or memoir, you may borrow one from the school before the end of the year. See Ms. McGinnis (Room 603) or Ms. Candlin (Room 602) to get a copy.

Part II. Choose 4-6 books from the list on the following page to read on your own before you return to school in September.

Texts for Grades 11 and 12

Title	Author
<i>A Place to Stand</i>	Jimmy Santiago Baca
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.</i>	Luis Rodriguez
<i>The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game</i>	Michael Lewis
<i>Divergent</i>	Veronica Roth
<i>The Maze Runner</i>	James Dashner
<i>Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children</i>	Ransom Riggs
<i>The Wolf of Wall Street</i>	Jordan Belfort
<i>American Gods</i>	Neil Gaiman
<i>Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness and Survival</i>	Liz Murray
<i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i>	Jeanette Walls
<i>My Sister’s Keeper</i>	Jodi Picoult
<i>Room</i>	Emma Donahue
<i>Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison</i>	Piper Kerman
<i>Gone Girl</i>	Gillian Flynn
<i>Sharp Objects</i>	Gillian Flynn
<i>Pet Cemetery</i>	Stephen King
<i>Teen Angst</i>	Ned Vizzini
<i>Keesha’s House</i>	Helen Frost
<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green
<i>Ender’s Game</i>	Orson Scott Card
<i>4,000 Days: My Life and Survival in a Bangkok Prison</i>	Warren Fellows
<i>The Lovely Bones</i>	Alice Sebold
<i>If I Stay</i>	Gayle Forman
<i>Where She Went</i>	Gayle Forman
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	J.D. Salinger
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>The Princess Bride</i>	William Goldman
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee
<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Sara Gruen
<i>The Night Circus</i>	Erin Morgenstern
<i>Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year Old GI</i>	Ryan Smithson
<i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i>	Bill Bryson

The Beach
The Mitch Rapp Series
Patient Zero
Jurassic Park
The Coldest Winter Ever
It's Kind of a Funny Story
Wintergirls
Ready Player One
The Book Thief
All the Light We Cannot See

Alex Garland
Vince Flynn
Jonathan Maberry
Michael Crichton
Sistah Souljah
Ned Vizzini
Laurie R. King
Ernest Cline
Markus Zusak
Anthony Doerr