

English I Honors
Summer Work
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For this course you will be expected to analyze a variety of written sources, ranging from short articles to novels. For your summer work, you will be reading an intense, first-person account of life during a recent war that you may find unfamiliar.

Please obtain a copy of Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Though this is a recently published book, it is available in paperback and is widely available for about 15 dollars. If you prefer not to buy a brand new copy at a bookstore, Amazon.com offers new and used copies at discount rates; you also have the added benefit of having the book delivered to your door. Another option is to use the public library. In any scenario, you should plan ahead enough to not only acquire a copy of the book, but also to complete the assignment.

As you read, keep a running journal of summaries and reactions to each chapter. Devote one page in a single-subject spiral notebook to each chapter. Write approximately 5-7 sentences summarizing each chapter and 5-7 sentences explaining how you felt immediately after reading that section of the book. Please clearly label a summary and response section on each page. I will collect this notebook on the first day of school and it will count as your first grade for this course.

Within the first week of school in August, you will complete an in-class essay demonstrating not only your knowledge of the people, places, and events in the book, but also your skills as a writer and analytical thinker. This essay will serve as your second major grade for the first quarter.

Though this book contains some mature themes (including wartime violence, language, and substance abuse) I am confident that we will have a class capable of discussing Beah's life as a soldier and eventual recovery. We will examine the importance of the memoir format and discuss reliability of nonfiction sources. Historical and cultural contexts are also meaningful with all literature and this is no exception.

Failure to complete the summary/reaction journal and/or the in-class essay for *A Long Way Gone* may result in your removal from Honors English I.

Good luck with the assignment and enjoy your summer. I look forward to meeting you in August.