

2021-22 English V Summer Reading

All summer reading projects will be due the Friday of the first full week of school. All English V students must read *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan.

All students who turn their books in to Mrs. Crosby will receive extra credit.

A content test will be given the first full week of school. We will have class discussions.

There is one option for the summer reading project. Comprehensive instructions may be found below:

Oral History is the collection of living people's testimonies about their own experiences. Oral historians typically interview and record primary sources and then verify the information against historical context.

For this assignment, you will conduct a short interview of someone (this person must be over the age of 65) who has experienced a significant life event. This could be an event that is important in history, or just an event that is important to that person or to your family. It does NOT have to be a major historical breakthrough!

The purpose of this assignment is to gain practice in first-hand research using primary sources and to understand the role that personal accounts play in history and literature. As LuLing tells her own story and her mother's story in *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, readers learn not only about this family, but also about the history and culture of WWII-era China and the relatable cultural ties between generations. In the novel, part of daughter Ruth's job as a writer is to help to translate and communicate this story for generations to come.

Your project will include the following components:

- 1.) Image of your subject
- 2.) Brief bio of your subject (Put the image and the bio on the same page. The bio should be well-developed. It should be at least two paragraphs in length. Paragraphs at your level are 7 to 10 sentences.)
- 3.) Revised and edited transcript of snapshots from your interview (2-3 pages total)

Brainstorming: Begin thinking about who you could interview, and what stories that person could tell.

Planning: Contact your top choice to ask permission to interview and record. Set up a time and method for the interview (phone, FaceTime, in-person, etc.) When you have a source who has agreed to be interviewed, begin some preliminary background knowledge of the historical area or experience that you will be asking about.

Organizing: Determine a list of interview questions. Remember, your goal is to help your subject tell a story! Questions should be open-ended, so as to elicit stories rather than one-word answers. You will also need to be flexible and ask follow-up questions or clarification questions during your interview.

Conduct your interview. At the start of your interview, be sure that your subject knows that he/she is being recorded, and that the interview will not necessarily be private. Explain the purpose of your assignment and how you intend to present the material.

Tips for Interviewing: - Start your recording with a statement about who, when, and where you are recording - Listen actively and intently - Silence is okay! Allow your interviewee some time to think. - Ask one question at a time. - Phrase questions to elicit open-ended responses. (Write questions that cannot be answered “yes” or “no.”) - Start with easier, less probing questions. Ask tougher questions toward the middle of the interview (if they are needed at all). - Use encouraging verbal statements throughout, such as “That’s so fascinating!” - Wrap up the interview with lighter talk – don’t just drop your interview in the middle of an intense discussion! - Be sensitive to the interviewee’s emotions, and withhold your own judgment. - Thank your interviewee after the interview. You might also consider sending a handwritten thank you note afterwards.

Instructions for Formatting and Submission:

- 1.) Create a Google doc for the assignment. Use MLA basic formatting structure.
- 2.) Type an appropriate title at the top. Also include your subject’s name.
- 3.) On the line below your title, include your “byline” and the date. For example: as told to Your Name, November 5, 2017
- 4.) Write the transcript of the conversation in an interview format.

Happy Summer! Please remember that you are an English V student. This work should be well-written, thoughtful, and comprehensive. If you have questions, please text Mrs. Crosby at 843-226-3279.