

Westminster Christian Academy

9th Grade Summer Reading

Honors Freshman Expository Writing

<u>Everything Sad is Untrue</u> by Daniel Nayeri ISBN 978-1-64614-000-8

Why are you reading this book?

- Through his autobiographical novel, Daniel Nayeri writes a story of his life that reflects his culture and background and life as an immigrant. He is a refugee from Iran, and his mother settles in Oklahoma where Nayeri recounts his experiences with classmates, who misunderstand him. Nayeri's "patchwork story" threads the pieces of his life into a larger tapestry. He tells his classmates and the reader stories of truth about his life experiences and incorporates Persian folklore in hopes of being heard.
- Identity is a theme that students will explore throughout their year in honors Freshman Expository Writing through their reading of literature, writing, and personal reflection. Nayeri's autobiographical novel is one account of how a person's identity is shaped.

What to look for as you read:

- Throughout the entire novel, underline or highlight and annotate key moments/stories, specific phrases, or impactful statements that reflect Nayeri's view of being an outsider.
 - Why does Nayeri feel like an outsider as a 12-year-old boy?
 - What *makes* him an outsider to the people around him?
 - What does he *experience* as an outsider?
 - What does he *feel* as an outsider?
 - What does he hope or long for?

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- Annotations
 - Annotations are not only key passages that are highlighted or underlined but also include written ideas that show your thinking during reading.
 - While reading, you should annotate by:
 - Highlighting or underlining at least 20-25 key passages that reflect Nayeri's revelations about his life story and being an outsider.
 - Briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note that make connections using:
 - Text to text: a connection between the text and another text that you've read
 - Text to self: a connection between the text and your life experiences
 - Text to world: a connection between the text and events in the world

- Questions: thought-provoking questions that help to clarify information or deepen discussion
- See Example Annotation on the following page.
- A Socratic Discussion will occur during class to allow students to evaluate and analyze key themes and concepts.
- Students will be guided through the writing process to produce a typed, formal essay to conclude the unit.

Please email Elizabeth Holliday at <u>eholliday@wcastl.org</u> if you have any questions.

Example Annotation:

LL PERSIANS ARE LIARS and lying is a sin. That's what the kids in Mrs. Miller's class think, but I'm the only Persian they've ever met, so I don't know where they got that idea. My mom says it's true, but only because everyone has every sinned and needs God to save them. My dad says it isn't. Persians aren't liars. They're poets, which is worse. Poets don't even know when they're lying. They're just trying to remember their dreams. They're trying to remember six thousand years of history and all the versions of all the stories ever told. - he is a refugee In one version, maybe I'm not the refugee kid in the back of Mrs. Miller's class. I'm a prince in disguise. If you catch me, I will say what they say in the 1.001 Nights. "Let me go, ar Nayeri is the only That's how they a Persian his class mates With a promise. I: know, but they all seem to think people know and be known mies anymore. like him lie. I'm not making th follow. In the 1,001 Nigh He is an outsider all the world's dream because he is viewed so he would spare he as different at school and misunderstood.