



William Cullen Bryant High School's SUMMER READING PROJECT

"PRINCIPAL DWARKA'S PICK":

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance

Book by Angela Duckworth, world-renowned psychologist and academic

You are to read at least two books: the "Principal's Pick" and at least one book of choice from the links at the end of this handout. Your work in response to *Grit* will be collected and graded by your new English teacher. *REQUIRED

YOUR TASK: After reading *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, choose one of the tasks below:

1. Reflective Essay:

"To be gritty is to keep putting one foot in front of the other. To be gritty is to hold fast to an interesting and purposeful goal. To be gritty is to invest, day after week after year, in challenging practice. To be gritty is to fall down seven times, and rise eight."

—Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance (p. 275), Angela Duckworth

According to Duckworth, grit is more about stamina – consistency over time – than intensity. Duckworth offers a version of her "grit scale" that she developed for her study at West Point. It is a self-assessment. She distinguishes between passion and enduring devotion – between enthusiasm, which she says is common, and endurance which she says is rare.

What is your true passion? What interesting and purposeful goals do you have? What challenging practices do you need to invest in to accomplish these goals? What are you doing day in and day out to make your future a reality?

After reading the book, log onto <https://angeladuckworth.com/grit-scale/> and find your "grit score" using Duckworth's "grit scale".

Using your self-assessment score and evidence from the text, discuss: "How gritty are you?" Using your personal "grit score" and evidence from the text, reflect how can you become "grittier"?

You may include personal experiences or the experiences of others, but you must support your reflection with evidence from the text.

2. Create a Dialectical Journal

The purpose of the dialectical journal is to record a dialogue or conversation between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading).

Draw a line down the middle of the page in your notebook. Label the left column **Quotation** and the right column **Response**. **Select a minimum of five quotations or excerpts** from different chapters of the book. Under the **Quotation** column, carefully copy the section of the book. Include the page and paragraph number. Respond to each quotation under the **Response** column.

Options for the response column (Select only one for each entry)

- Argue with or speak to the character or author
- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Discuss how the author uses rhetoric to develop the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character
- Make specific connections to other texts and/or experiences

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry
***The Things They Carried* - by Tim O'Brien**

QUOTATION

“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry” (2).

RESPONSE

O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty -things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.

Expository Essay Rubric

Category	20	15	10	5
Content/Ideas	Writing is confident and clearly focused. It holds the reader's attention. Strong explanation and reasoning.	Writing is purposeful and focused. Fairly solid explanation and reasoning.	Writing does not clearly communicate knowledge. Holes or gaps in explanation and reasoning.	Writing is limited in communicating knowledge. Length is not adequate for development.
Organization and Development	Writing includes a strong beginning, middle, and end, with clear transitions and a focused closure.	Writing includes a strong beginning, middle, and end, with some transitions and good closure.	Writing is confused and/or loosely organized. Transitions are weak and closure is ineffective.	Writing is brief and underdeveloped, with very weak transitions and closure.
Voice	Writer writes with a distinct, unique voice. Writing is skillfully adapted to the audience.	Writer has a strong voice. Writing engages the audience.	Writer's voice shows that the sense of audience is vague.	Writer's voice shows little sense of audience.
Vocabulary and Word Choice	Effective and engaging word choice.	Purposeful word choice.	Shows some varied word choice.	Language is flat, trite, or vague.
Conventions	Uses consistent agreement between parts of speech. No errors in mechanics.	Consistent agreement between parts of speech. Uses correct punctuation, capitalization, etc.	Occasional errors between parts of speech. Some errors in mechanics.	Inconsistent agreement between parts of speech. Many errors in mechanics.

Response Rubric:

6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insightful, discerning, perceptive interpretation • Makes connections with the passage – global and personal • Takes risks • Challenges the passage by asking questions, forming answers • Shows evidence of close, thoughtful reading. Explores multiple possibilities of meaning.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discerning, thorough, perceptive interpretation of the passage • Less insightful than a 6 • Makes connections between own life and that of the passage • Explores multiple possibilities of meaning • Challenges the passage by asking questions, forming answers
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoughtful, plausible interpretation of the passage • Makes connections with and among passages • Rarely takes risks
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plausible but literal, superficial interpretation of the passage • Minimal connections with the passage • Little tolerance for difficulties • Questions may represent frustration with the passage
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers partial or reductive interpretation for the passage • Few or no connections with the passage • Seldom asks questions about the passage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to respond to individual words or phrases only • No evidence of engaging in reading as a process



2017 SUMMER READING LINKS



For more choices, try these links:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/NYCReads365>: A diverse selection of book titles for **all reading levels** from NYC Reads 2016-17.

<https://tinyurl.com/nh7srya>: The College Board compiled this list of 101 Great Books Recommended for College-Bound Readers.

<http://connect.queenslibrary.org/1074> : Build a better world through reading with the NYC public libraries' 2017 summer reading lists for all readers.

<https://tinyurl.com/hfw3oy7> : Fiction, nonfiction, audiobooks, graphic novels! There is something for everyone in this 2017 extensive, annotated reading list from New York State Libraries Teen and Up Summer Reading Program, **Explore New York: Build a Better World**. The selected titles offer a taste of NY while exploring the history, diversity, and culture of our great state. Enjoy!

<http://audiobooksync.com>: Teens may download two free selected audiobooks per week until August 15, 2017.

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards> : Try some of these award-winning books from YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association)

Additional Book Choices

For those entering Grade 9

[When I was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago](#): The story of a young girl who leaves Puerto Rico for New York's tenements and a chance for success.

[Life of Pi: a novel by Yann Martel](#): Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

[Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League by Dan-El Padilla Peralta](#): At one point in his memoir Peralta, who came to the U.S. as the age of four and is now a professor of classics at Princeton, describes himself as "illegal alien, hoodrat, Dominican, classicist." His story offers a window into the hardships faced by undocumented families.

[The Orange Houses by Paul Griffin](#): Tamika, a fifteen-year-old hearing-impaired girl, Jimmi, an eighteen-year-old veteran who stopped taking his antipsychotic medication, and sixteen-year-old Fatima, an illegal immigrant from Africa, meet and connect in their Bronx, New York, neighborhood, with devastating results.

[Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse](#): A moral allegory, set in ancient India, about one soul's quest for the ultimate answer to the enigma of man's role in this world. The hero, Siddhartha, undergoes a series of experiences to emerge in a state of peace and wisdom.

For those entering Grade 10

[Hidden Figures: The American Dream and The Untold Story of The Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly](#): An account of the previously unheralded contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their successes.

[The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens by Brooke Hauser](#): New to America and all the routines and rituals of an American high school, from lonely first days to prom, Hauser tracks the staff and students at the International High School at Prospect Heights in Brooklyn, N.Y., providing their personal histories as well as their day-to-day experiences.

[Girl at War: A Novel by Sara Nović](#): When her happy life in 1991 Croatia is shattered by civil war, ten-year-old Ana Juric is embroiled in a world of guerilla warfare and child soldiers before making a daring escape to America, where years later she struggles to hide her past

[I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson](#): A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah

[The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell](#): Explains why major changes in society often happen suddenly and unexpectedly and describes the personality types who are natural originators of innovative ideas and trends.

For those entering Grade 11

[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#): Henrietta Lacks was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. Skloot tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

[A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea by Dina Nayeri](#): Fascinated with America, young Saba Hafezi of 1980s Iran becomes convinced that her suddenly missing mother and twin sister have departed for America without her, a situation that compels her to envision her twin's Western life throughout subsequent years.

[The Great American Whatever by Tim Federle](#): Teenaged Quinn, an aspiring screenwriter, copes with his sister's death while his best friend forces him back out into the world to face his reality.

[In Other Rooms, Other Wonders by Daniyal Mueenuddin](#): A collection of linked stories about the lives of landowners and their retainers on the Gurmani family farm in the countryside outside of Lahore, Pakistan.

[The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz](#): Overweight and nerdy Oscar lives with his Dominican American mother and sister in New Jersey and dreams of finding love and becoming the next J.R.R. Tolkien. Unfortunately, a family curse stands in the way of his wishes.

For Those Entering Grade 12

[Q & A: a Novel by Vikas Swarup](#): After winning India's biggest quiz show, Ram Mohammad Thomas is put in jail as authorities question how a poor orphan who has never gone to school could win such a contest (adapted into the film "Slumdog Millionaire").

[Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell](#): The author explores why some people are high achievers and others are not, citing culture, family, and upbringing as possible reasons some people are not as successful as others.

[The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez](#): Moving from Mexico to America when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.

[Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#): Coates takes readers along on his journey through America's history of race and its contemporary resonances through a series of awakenings--moments when he discovered some new truth about our long, tangled history of race, whether through his myth-busting professors at Howard University, a trip to a Civil War battlefield with a rogue historian, a journey to Chicago's South Side to visit aging survivors of 20th century America's 'long war on black people,' or a visit with the mother of a beloved friend who was shot down by the police.

[The Better Angels of Our Nature by Steven Pinker](#): (Bill Gates recommends to all HS seniors): Exploding myths about humankind's inherent violence and the curse of modernity, this ambitious book continues Pinker's exploration of the essence of human nature, mixing psychology and history to provide a remarkable picture of an increasingly enlightened world.

Take Bryant Library's Reading Interest Survey:

<http://goo.gl/forms/Zry2ZEkrHc5na6VI2>

Keep track of your reading with Bryant's Reading Log:

<http://goo.gl/forms/XHonSxnY0xHH3uu82>



Have a great summer!

