



Clayton High School 2017 Summer Reading Program *One Book, One School, One Community*

“...now I wanted to know, if I committed to a goal and woke up every single day working hard it, could I change my life?” — **Liz Murray, *Breaking Night***

June 2017

Dear Parents and Students:

The Clayton High School English Department is ecstatic to offer an interactive literacy experience to our students for the summer of 2017. We are continuing this year with the *One Book, One School, One Community* summer reading program. We are challenging everyone in the community to read *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray. We would like for everyone to interact with the text through social media via the @clipperlibrary Instagram page as well as engage with the text in extra credit, cross-curricular projects.

This year's selection is a memoir about a teenage girl who lived in deplorable conditions with her drug addicted parents. At age fifteen, when her family finally unraveled, Murray found herself on the streets. Despite homelessness, Murray finished high school and was accepted into one of the most prestigious colleges in the country. Murray's true story gives the reader hope that it is possible to prevail against all odds.

Students, all of you in grades 9-12 are expected to read *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* over the summer. You will take an assessment (which may be a test or essay) within the first week of school. Additionally, this year you have an exciting opportunity to receive **extra credit** on the fall summer reading assessment in English class for each of the following assignments completed with well supported details and accurate information:



+ 1 Point – College Bucket List: The protagonist in the story, Liz Murray, makes it into one of the most prestigious colleges in the world, Harvard. Research colleges and universities, and then create a list of the top five colleges you would like to attend. Explain why.



+ 2 Points – Poem: Liz Murray lived with fear, hunger, danger, and desperation. Write a poem of at least eight lines dealing with a negative emotion or experience. You may follow the model below (if you wish):

- The first line of the poem involves a negative emotion or experience: sadness, anger, confusion, hurt, etc.
- The second line describes the emotion as a color. For example, “anger as red as a stop sign.”
- The third line starts with "It happens when . . ."
- The fourth line begins with "It sounds like . . ." For example, "Sadness sounds like a kitten left out in the rain."
- Add several more lines.
- The last line of the poem repeats the original emotion or experience.



+3 Points – Response to Nonfiction Articles: Read three nonfiction articles dealing with homelessness and write a prose-constructed response.

- Read *NY Times Upfront* cover story about teen homelessness at <http://larkinstreetyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Upfront091514HomelessTeens.pdf>
- Read the *Washington Post* article “These are the faces of America’s growing youth homeless population” at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2016/06/17/these-are-the-faces-of-americas-growing-youth-homeless-population/?utm_term=.40b0ef0dc75b
- Read an update about Liz Murray’s life since her graduation from Harvard at <http://www.success.com/article/your-personal-best-from-homeless-to-harvard>.

Write a prose-constructed response of at least three paragraphs that contains textual evidence from the three articles above. Discuss the profound challenges homeless youth face. Identify the main reasons teens become homeless and where they stay when they no longer have a permanent home. Lastly, discuss how overcoming homelessness shaped Liz Murray into the person she is today.

You may complete as many of these extra credit projects as you like. They MUST be turned in on the day of the test. Also, if you interact on the Instagram page you will be entered into a drawing to receive an exciting prize in September.



Honors and AP level students are required to read *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* as well as additional books. Following you will find a list of book requirements by grade level. The book list corresponds with the grade you will be in during the 2017-2018 school year. You may purchase your summer reading online or at a bookstore; additionally, the public libraries in Glassboro, Franklinville, and Monroe Township will have limited copies available for checkout.

It is our sincere hope that you enjoy being immersed in your summer reading book, and that you realize that reading can help you to succeed in all subject areas and in the world of work! Thank you and have a great summer!

Sincerely,
The Clayton High School English Department

Clayton High School Reading List by Grade Level (corresponds to the grade you will be in during the 2017-2018 school year)

9th Grade

CP English I – *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray

Honors English I – *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray and one from below:
I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, or *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

10th Grade

CP English II - *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray

Honors English II - *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray and one from below.
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, or *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

11th Grade

CP English III - *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray

English III AP - *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray and one from below:
Dracula by Bram Stoker or *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

12th Grade

CP English IV - *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray

English IV Advanced Placement Literature and Composition-

Over the course of the academic year we will be reading and writing at a rapid pace. Therefore, the summer reading program is designed to keep you active as readers and writers. It is important to have read a wide variety of classical pieces of literature when analyzing literature in the AP class and on the AP exam, so please try to read as much as possible. You must read *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray. Additionally, please choose a minimum of 2 of the following books that you haven't read or been exposed to previously to prepare for the AP exam:

Angela's Ashes

A Clockwork Orange

Slaughterhouse-Five

A Tale of Two Cities

Invisible Man

The Bell Jar

The Iliad

Sarah's Key

A Streetcar Named Desire

The Color Purple

The Kite Runner

Catch -22

Wuthering Heights

Moll Flanders

Taming of the Shrew

The Alchemist

Jane Eyre

Song of Solomon

As I Lay Dying

The Awakening