

**Brentwood Academy**  
***Summer Reading List 2010***  
**AP Language and Composition**

*"Books are men of higher stature; the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear."  
E.S. Barrett*

**A Rationale for Summer Reading:**

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

**Texts:**        *Note: It is important that you purchase the editions indicated by the ISBNs.*

*unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation*        ISBN 978-1-4000-6566-0  
Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*        ISBN 0374531269  
Ishmael Beah

**General Instructions/Evaluations:**

*unSpun* is a short work that explores the media, politics and advertising and instructs the reader on how to disseminate the truth in these areas. The book will be invaluable to you when we begin our discussion on rhetoric and our study of non-fiction writing.

*A Long Way Gone* is a powerful true story of a young man who survives war but loses his family, his sense of safety and his innocence. Beah writes about the horrors of rebel warfare using stark language and a paired down narrative style. The book will leave you wondering how anyone can survive such horrors and live to find a measure of joy in life.

## Reading Journal for *A Long Way Gone*

The purpose of a reading journal keeps track of observations and the textual evidence that led the reader to make the observation. It fosters a close and thorough reading of the text. You will use your reading journal for class discussion and for your first AP level essay.

Directions: Using a regular notebook, divide each page into two columns. The left hand column will be your observation from your reading. You are specifically looking for elements of style, use of language and author's purpose. You also want to look for occasions when the author is making a comment about the war, the rebels, how it affected people, etc. This is social commentary, which we will spend quite a bit of time on next year. Remember this is non-fiction, so you will not be looking for figurative language, plot, etc. The right hand column is for textual evidence that supports your observation. You will need to have a mix of quotes and paraphrasing. Page numbers alone are not acceptable.

Example:

*A Long Way Gone*

Chapter 1

### Observation

Beah begins the book telling us he was 12 when the war affected him directly. He and his friends had started a rap group and were on their way to a talent show. It sounds so normal, like something we would do here in the states, but in an instant their lives changed.

### Textual Evidence

“Since we intended to return the next day, we didn’t say goodbye or tell anyone where we were going. We didn’t know that we were leaving home, never to return.”

So it will go for the entire book. Your goal should be 2 observations per chapter. Your observations should be about things you think are meaningful or things that strike you as sad, tragic, or just significant.

Tips: Keep your journal as you are reading! Remember that you will be enhancing your reading experience and you will be armed and ready in August for discussion and writing. If you have questions, please email [cindy\\_lovell@brentwoodacademy.com](mailto:cindy_lovell@brentwoodacademy.com).

*Please remember the B.A. English policy: do not consult Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, internet novel guides, or any other electronic or printed summaries; work with the texts themselves.*