Student’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Book title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hello, Seniors! This summer, I would like you to read two memoirs: one must be from the list below and the second should be one of your own choosing (although you may choose to read a second from the list below ☺). You have two jobs as you read: 1) Enjoy the book! It’s summer, after all. 2) Pay really close attention to the writer’s style by taking bountiful notes on the questions within the table. Your notes will be collected on the first day of school when you return in the fall and/or will serve as the building block for a future assignment.

\*Some of these works deal with complex, mature issues. Some of them have mature language in them. Please do the research before making a choice so you can be certain that your selection matches your/your parents’ comfort level!

* *Angela’s Ashes* - Frank McCourt
* *A Walk in the Woods* – Bill Bryson
* *The Liars’ Club* – Mary Karr
* *All Over but the Shoutin’* - Rick Bragg
* *The Glass Castle* - Jeannette Walls
* *Eat, Pray, Love* - Elizabeth Gilbert

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|  | Your response | Textual evidence that supports your response – use proper MLA citation. |
| 1. How does the writer begin the memoir? Why do you think he/she started it this way? What tensions, relationships, and/or ideas is he/she trying to get you to pay attention to right from the get-go? |  |  |
| 2. What level of language does the writer tend to use? (Formal? Colloquial? Slang? Some kind of regionalism?) What effect does this have on you as a reader? |  |  |
| 3. What do you notice about the kinds of sentences the writer tends to use? How does punctuation play into this? (i.e. Does he/she usually write short, choppy sentences; long, complex sentences; a balance of these?) What effect does this have on you as a reader? |  |  |
| 4. What is the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, vivid, engaging, or beautiful? |  |  |
| 5. What strategies (dialogue, imagery, POV, anecdotes, other…) does the writer employ to create memorable characters? Choose one character and give me a few precise adjectives that BEST describes him/her. |  |  |