

Independent Reading Pre-Unit Assessment Task:

Choose one of the quotes by a famous writer. Write a one-page single spaced reaction to the quote. Do you agree or disagree with the quote? Do you take exception to a part of it? Why do you feel the way you do? Using personal examples, explain your reaction to the quote and why you chose it.

“Reading is everything. Reading makes me feel like I've accomplished something, learned something, become a better person. Reading makes me smarter. Reading gives me something to talk about later on... Reading is escape, and the opposite of escape; it's a way to make contact with reality after a day of making things up, and it's a way of making contact with someone else's imagination after a day that's all too real. Reading is grist. Reading is bliss.”

— Nora Ephron, *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*

“We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.”

— Ursula K. Le Guin

“Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself, or like the ambitious, for the purpose of instruction. No, read in order to live.”

— Gustave Flaubert

“For some of us, books are as important as almost anything else on earth. What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you. Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die.”

— Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*