

Upper School English Summer Reading Assignment 2022-2023

10th Grade English

All students enrolled in 10th Grade English in the fall must read the required text selection below: *The Blind Side* by Michael Lewis. Complete the three assignments as you work your way through the novel. Your work will be turned in when we return to school and will be used for coursework when you return to school.

I hope you have a pleasant summer. Please find time for yourself and your loved ones while also taking care of responsibilities.

Please contact me via email with any questions.

See you in August,

Mr. Jones

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Required Book

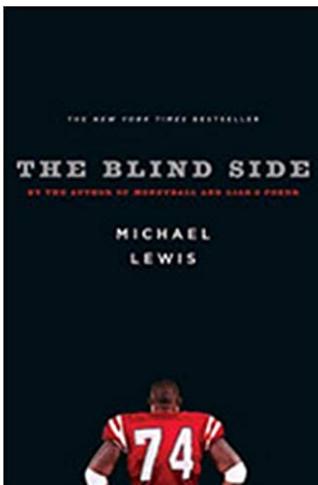
The Blind Side

By Michael Lewis

ISBN-13: 978-0393330472

Michael Lewis mainly writes stories covering aspects of the American economy. For this book, Lewis is intrigued by value in unexpected places. He is curious why so much value is placed on the Left Tackle position in professional football. His curiosity leads him to discover the fascinating tale of Michael Oher.

When we first meet him, Michael Oher is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football, and school, after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game where the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Our protagonist becomes the priceless package of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability, his blind side.



Summer Reading Assignment

A. Class Context:

- Since analyzing characterization is such an important part of literature, it will be crucial for you to think about how the fascinating characters of *The Blind Side* are developed as we read. Additionally, I want you to contemplate the analysis of the NFL, the exposure of college football recruiting, and the family dynamics presented in this novel.

- Value. This book is primarily about the concept of value. Value is the amount of worth placed on a thing or a person. This worth is assigned by another person, a community, a society, or an institution (like the NFL). I want you to ponder the author’s examination of value throughout the story of Michael Oher.

B. Assignments

Assignment 1: Read the book by Lewis. Making annotations throughout concerning the guidance listed above in the “Class Context” paragraphs.

Assignment 2: For chapter one “Backstory”, I want you to do some research on Lawrence Taylor. I want you to watch video clips of this guy. Write a paragraph about what you have learned about him from research and video clips. In this paragraph, communicate how Lawrence Taylor compares to what you know about football in your lifetime and why “LT” was so valuable in the evolution of football. Offer specific examples of what you watch.

- This is a handwritten paragraph.

Assignment 3: Complete the following journal assignment using a Google Doc. Make at least one entry for each chapter. Your chapters include 2-12.

1. For the left hand column, provide a quote or quotes that shed light on what is listed in the “Class Context” above. Ideally, I want you to focus on the examination of value.
2. For the middle column, provide the chapter and page number(s) the quote comes from.
3. Explain. See the box below for guidance.

Converse with the text: What did you like or dislike about the passage? Why were you drawn to it? What was the emotional response you had to the words? What did it make you think about?

Analyze: Why do you think this quote was placed in the book at this point? How does it develop a character or conflict? *You should refer to events before or after the quote to give context for your answer.*

Explain: How does the quote / chapter extend beyond the text and to something relevant to a person, community, or society? Explain how this quote and chapter relates to the theme of value?

***Recreate the following graphic organizer in a google doc. This doc will be submitted in our class google classroom when you return to school.**

| Quotation (At least 1 entry per chapter) | Page # chapter | Converse, Analyze, Evaluate |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| (type/write the quote you are analyzing here) | | Answer the questions from above here in a reflective form. |
| <p>Example:</p> <p>“A world once rigged to insure his failure now seems rigged to insure his success, and he claims to see nothing odd, or unsettling, about it. But I do. If I had more patience with this story, I might have waited ten years to tell it.”</p> | <p>Page 333 “The Afterword”</p> | <p>Sample response:</p> <p>(Respond) Mr. Lewis sees systems rigged for success and failure for certain individuals. As a professional in the education system and a long time sports fan, I lean toward his point of view. I understand how someone can view the education system as being designed with barriers that limit the success of certain people. And I can understand how someone can view big time athletics as not being an accessible opportunity for everyone.</p> <p>(Analyze) Now, what I really like about this quote is the author’s anticipation of a critique of this book. This book is focused on Michael Oher, but the author’s purpose is not to just tell Oher’s story; rather, Lewis is examining value. He wanted to capture a picture about the evolution of value in one marketplace. Oher’s ultimate career success or failure is irrelevant to the author’s purpose.</p> <p>(Explain) Mr. Lewis is attempting to frame the long term conversation about this book. Value is something that can always be in flux. It is important that any person or society be nimble and humble enough to recognize it. Additionally, personal opportunities for success can also depend very much on external factors outside a person’s control. In America, where competition is usually lauded, those in</p> |
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