

# English IV Gifted & Great Scholars Summer Reading Project: List, Questions, & Project

## Biography/Autobiography Reading List

### Biographies/Autobiographies of Women of Achievement:

**Madeleine Albright** (Secretary of State)

*Madam Secretary: A Memoir* by Madeleine Albright (2003)

*Madeleine Albright: A Twentieth Century Odyssey* by Michael Dobbs (1999)

**Maya Angelou** (Author and Poet)

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (1969)

**Melba Patillo Beals** (Author and Journalist)

*Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* by Melba Patillo Beals (1995)

**Erma Bombeck** (Author and Humorist)

*Erma Bombeck: A Life in Humor* by Susan Edwards (1997)

**Donna Brazile** (Political Strategist)

*Cooking With Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics* by Donna Brazile (2005)

**Sandra Cisneros** (Author)

*Sandra Cisneros: Latina Writer and Activist* by Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (1998)

**Hillary Rodham Clinton** (Secretary of State)

*Living History* by Hillary Rodham Clinton (2003)

**Amelia Earhart** (Pilot)

*East to Dawn: The Life of Amelia Earhart* by Susan Butler (1997)

**Anne Frank** (Victim of the Holocaust)

*Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family* by Miep Gies and Allison Leslie Gold (1987)

**Lorraine Hansberry** (Playwright)

*To Be Young, Gifted and Black: An Informal Autobiography of Lorraine Hansberry* by Lorraine Hansberry (1969)

**Leta Hollingworth** (Educator)

*A Forgotten Voice: A Biography of Leta Stetter Hollingworth* by Ann G. Klein (2002)

**Charlayne Hunter-Gault** (Journalist)

*In My Place* by Charlayne Hunter-Gault (1992)

**Zora Neale Hurston** (Author)

*Jump at de Sun: The Story of Zora Neal Hurston* by A. P. Porter (1992)

**Barbara Jordan** (Politician)

*Barbara Jordan: An American Hero* by Mary Beth Rogers (1998)

**Helen Keller** (Author and Activist)

*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller (2003)

**Coretta Scott King** (Human Rights Activist)

*Coretta: The Story of Coretta Scott King* by Octavia Vivian (2006)

**Rebecca Lobo** (Athlete, Sports Analyst)

*The Home Team: Of Mothers, Daughters, and American Champions* by RuthAnn Lobo and Rebecca Lobo (1996)

**Wilma Mankiller** (Leader of the Cherokee Nation)

*Mankiller: A Chief and Her People* by Wilma Mankiller and Michael Wallis (1993)

**Margaret Mead** (Anthropologist)

*With a Daughter's Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson* by Mary Catherine Bateson (1985)

**Sandra Day O'Connor** (Supreme Court Justice)

*Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest* by Sandra Day O'Connor and H. Alan Day (2002)

*Sandra Day O'Connor: How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became its Most Influential Justice* by Joan Biskupic (2005)

**Mary Lou Retton** (Athlete)

*Mary Lou Retton's Gateways to Happiness: 7 Ways to a More Peaceful, More Prosperous, More Satisfying Life* by Mary Lou Retton and David Bender (2000)

**Condoleezza Rice** (Secretary of State)  
*Condi: The Condoleezza Rice Story* by Antonia Felix (2002)

**J. K. Rowling** (Author)  
*J. K. Rowling: A Biography* by Connie An Kirk (2003)

**Esmerelda Santiago** (Author and Screenwriter)  
*Almost a Woman* by Esmerelda Santiago (1998)  
*When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmerelda Santiago (1993)

**Pat Schroeder** (Politician)  
*24 Years of House Work . . . and the Place Is Still a Mess: My Life in Politics* by Pat Schroeder (1998)

**Beverly Sills** (Opera Singer)  
*Bubbles: A Self-Portrait* by Beverly Sills (1976)  
*Beverly: An Autobiography* by Beverly Sills and Lawrence Linderman (1987)

**Barbra Streisand** (Actress and Singer)  
*Her Name Is Barbra* by Randall Riese (1993)

**Maria Tallchief** (Ballerina)  
*Maria Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina* by Maria Tallchief (1997)

**Alice Walker** (Author)  
*Alice Walker: A Life* by Evelyn C. White (2004)

**Heather Whitestone** (Miss America, Motivational Speaker)  
*Yes, You Can, Heather! The Story of Heather Whitestone, Miss America 1995* by Daphne Gray (1995)  
*Listening With My Heart* by Heather Whitestone and Angela Elwell Hunt (1998)

**Christine Todd Whitman** (Politician)  
*Growing Up Republican: Christie Whitman: The Politics of Character* by Patricia Beard (1996)

#### **Biographies/Autobiographies of Men of Achievement:**

**Lance Armstrong** (Athlete)  
*It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life* by Lance Armstrong and Sally Jenkins (2000)

**Neil Armstrong** (Astronaut)  
*First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong* by James R. Hansen (2005)

**Arthur Ashe** (Athlete)  
*Days of Grace: A Memoir* by Arthur Ashe and Arnold Rampersad (1993)

**Russell Baker** (Author)  
*Growing Up* by Russell Baker (1982)

**Larry Bird** (Athlete)  
*Drive: The Story of My Life* by Larry Bird (1991)

**Terry Bradshaw** (Athlete and Sports Analyst)  
*Looking Deep* by Terry Bradshaw (1989)  
*Keep It Simple* by Terry Bradshaw and David Fisher (2002)

**Tom Brokaw** (Television Journalist and Author)  
*A Long Way From Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland in the Forties and Fifties* by Tom Brokaw (2002)

**Jim Carrey** (Actor)  
*Jim Carrey: The Joker Is Wild* by Martin Knelman (2000)

**Ben Carson** (Surgeon)  
*Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson (1990)  
*Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence* by Ben Carson (1992)

**Jimmy Carter** (U.S. President)  
*An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood* by Jimmy Carter (2001)

**Bart Conner** (Athlete)  
*Winning the Gold* by Bart Conner (1985)

**Anderson Cooper** (Television Journalist)  
*Dispatches From the Edge: A Memoir of Wars, Disasters, and Survival* by Anderson Cooper (2006)

**Bob Dole** (Politician)  
*One Soldier's Story: A Memoir* by Bob Dole (2005)

**Michael J. Fox** (Actor)

*Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incredible Optimist* by Michael J. Fox (2009)

**Bill Gates** (Entrepreneur)

*Gates: How Microsoft's Mogul Reinvented an Industry – and Made Himself the Richest Man in America* by Stephen Manes and Paul Andrews (1994)

**John Glenn** (Astronaut)

*John Glenn: A Memoir* by John Glenn and Nick Taylor (1999)

**Tony Hawk** (Athlete)

*Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder* by Tony Hawk and Sean Mortimer (2000)

**Homer Hickam, Jr.** (Aerospace Engineer)

*October Sky* by Homer Hickam (1998)

**Grant Hill** (Athlete)

*Change the Game: One Athlete's Thoughts on Sports, Dreams, and Growing Up* by Grant Hill (1996)

**Ron Howard** (Film Director)

*Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon . . . and Beyond* by Beverly Gray (2003)

**Derek Jeter** (Athlete)

*The Life You Imagine: Life Lessons for Achieving Your Dreams* by Derek Jeter and Jack Curry (2000)

**Bob Kerrey** (Politician)

*When I Was a Young Man* by Bob Kerrey (2002)

**Carl Lewis** (Athlete)

*Inside Track: My Professional Life in Amateur Track and Field* by Carl Lewis (1990)

**Marcus Mabry** (Journalist)

*White Bucks and Black-Eyed Peas: Coming of Age Black in White America* by Marcus Mabry (1995)

**John McCain** (Politician)

*Faith of My Fathers* by John McCain and Mark Salter (1999)

**Ruben Navarette** (Journalist)

*A Darker Shade of Crimson: Odyssey of a Harvard Chicano* by Ruben Navarette, Jr. (1993)

**Paul O'Neil** (Athlete)

*Me and My Dad: A Baseball Memoir* by Paul O'Neill and Burton Rocks (2003)

**Gordon Parks** (Photographer and Film Director)

*Voices in the Mirror: An Autobiography* by Gordon Parks (1990)

**Sidney Poitier** (Actor, Film Director, and Author)

*Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter* by Sidney Poitier (2008)

**Colin Powell** (Secretary of State)

*My American Journey* by Colin Powell and Joseph E. Persico (1995)

*Colin Powell: A Biography* by Richard Steins (2003)

*Soldier: The Life of Colin Powell* by Karen DeYoung (2006)

**Dan Rather** (Television Journalist)

*I remember* by Dan Rather and Peter Wyden (1991)

*Lone Star: The Extraordinary Life and Times of Dan Rather* by Alan Weisman (2006)

**Richard Rodriguez** (Journalist)

*Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez* by Richard Rodriguez (1982)

*Days of Obligation: An Argument With my Mexican Father* by Richard Rodriguez (1992)

*Brown: The Last Discovery of America* by Richard Rodriguez (2002)

**Carl Rowan** (Journalist)

*Breaking Barriers* by Carl Rowan (1991)

**Tim Russert** (Television Journalist)

*Big Russ & Me: Father and Son: Lessons of Life* by Tim Russert (2004)

**Carlos Santana** (Musician)

*Carlos Santana: Back on Top* by Marc Shapiro (2000)

**Jerry Seinfeld** (Comedian)

*Seinfeld: The Making of an American Icon* by Jerry Oppenheimer (2002)

**Shel Silverstein** (Poet and Cartoonist)

*A Boy Named Shel: The Life and Times of Shel Silverstein* by Lisa Rogak (2007)

**Steven Spielberg** (Film Director)

*Steven Spielberg: A Biography* by Joseph McBride (1997)

**Josh Waitzkin** (National Chess Champion and Martial Arts Champion)  
*The Art of Learning: An Inner Journey to Optimal Performance* by Josh Waitzkin (2007)

**J. C. Watts** (Politician)  
*What Color Is a Conservative? My Life and Politics* by J. C. Watts, Jr. (2002)

**Carl Yastrzemski** (Athlete)  
*Yaz: Baseball, the Wall, and Me* by Carl Yastrzemski (1990)

## **Biography/Autobiography Questions**

**Title of Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Name of person featured in the book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of the person:** \_\_\_\_\_

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- 1. Why is this person famous**
  - 2. Is this person still alive? Yes/No**
  - 3. What span of time does this biography cover? What are the approximate dates/years?**
  - 4. What significant events contributed to this person's life outcome? List them in chronological order.**
  - 5. What did you like best of all the things that happened to this person?**
  - 6. List five facts you learned about this person.**
  - 7. This person showed spirit when . . .**
  - 8. The person had a lot of heart because . . .**
  - 9. This person showed courage when . . .**

- 10. What were the weaknesses, failures, or disappointments for this person?**
- 11. Tell about a time in this person's life when everything seemed to go wrong.**
- 12. If you had been this person, what would you have done differently?**
- 13. Tell about a time when this person made a little extra effort that made a difference. What would have happened if that extra effort would not have been made?**
- 14. List three people that influenced this person's life.**
- 15. Did the subject of this biography have a hero or role model who set an example? If so, who and why?**
- 16. I (would/wouldn't) want to be this person's child because . . .**
- 17. Who in your life, does this person remind you of the most? Explain why.**
- 18. The thing that surprised me most about this person was . . .**
- 19. After reading this book, would you consider the subject to be someone to look up to as a role mode? Why or why not?**
- 20. What experiences or lessons from this person's life could a reader apply to his or her own life?**

# Biography Project

***Task: The student will be able to give an informational and analytical presentation of a person of achievement in a visually pleasing manner which showcases their heroic characteristics and risks taken.***

Students should use their Biography/Autobiography questions to guide their presentation. The presentation should be given orally and utilize a visual product. No Power Points are to be used, get creative!

## **Acceptable Products Include:**

Video Report (commercial or news cast)

Newspaper

Book of poems

Mobile

Biography Suitcase (create a suitcase out of a pizza box and place items created by you inside related to your subject)

Geographical Map of the person's life

Life size drawing of subject with "accessories" representing the subject.

Statue with backdrop representative of person's life

Website

# Biography Project Rubric

Teacher Name: **Mrs. Baudoin**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY				
<b>Content/ Comprehension</b>  (20 pts.)	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent. Shows a full understanding of the topic. Facts were accurate for all events reported. Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic. (20 pts.)	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good. Shows a good understanding of the topic. Facts were accurate for almost all events reported. Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic. (17-19 pts.)	Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors. Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic. Facts were accurate for most (~75%) of the events. Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic. (14-16 pts.)	Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors. Does not seem to understand the topic very well. Facts were often inaccurate for events reported. Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic. (0-13 pts.)
<b>Purpose/ Organization</b>  (15 pts.)	A clear purpose is established and maintained throughout! Cohesive. Content is well organized. (15 pts.)	Establishes a purpose at the beginning, but occasionally wanders from that focus. The overall organization appears flawed. (13-14 pts.)	The purpose is somewhat clear but many aspects seem only slightly related. Content is logically organized for the most part. (11-12 pts.)	It was difficult to figure out the purpose. There was no clear or logical organizational structure, just lots of facts. (0-10 pts.)
<b>Effectiveness</b> (15 pts.)	Project includes all material needed to gain a comfortable understanding of the topic. (15 pts.)	Project includes most material needed to gain a comfortable understanding of the material. (13-14 pts.)	Project includes a limited amount of material needed to gain a basic understanding of the material. (11-12 pts.)	Project lacks several key elements and is not understandable. (0-10 pts.)
<b>Grammar/ Mechanics</b> (10 pts.)	No misspellings or grammatical errors. (10 pts.)	Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors. (8-9 pts.)	Four misspellings and/or grammatical errors. (6-7 pts.)	More than 4 errors in spelling or grammar. (0-5 pts.)
<b>Design</b> (10 pts.)	Graphics include some original material and are clearly related to the material being presented. All graphics are effective and balanced. 90-100% of labels/features can be read easily. The overall appearance is pleasing and easy to read. The project has a creative title that accurately describes the material and is easy to locate. (10 pts.)	Graphics are clearly related to the material being presented, but none are original. All graphics are effective, but there appear to be too few or too many. 89-80% of the labels/features can be read easily. The overall appearance is somewhat pleasing and easy to read. The project has an effective title that accurately describes the material and is easy to locate. (8-9 pts.)	Graphics include some original material but are only somewhat related to the material being presented. Some graphics are effective and their use is balanced. 79-70% of the labels/features can be read easily. Relatively readable. The project has a title that is easy to locate. (6-7 pts.)	Graphics are not related to the material being presented. Several graphics are not effective. Less than 70% of the labels/features can be read easily. Difficult to read. The title is missing or difficult to locate. (0-5 pts.)

<b>Originality/ Attractiveness (10 pts.)</b>	Project shows considerable originality and inventiveness. The content and ideas are presented in a unique and interesting way. Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation. (10 pts.)	Project shows some originality and inventiveness. The content and ideas are presented in an interesting way. Makes good use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance to presentation. (8-9 pts.)	Project shows an attempt at originality and inventiveness. Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the presentation content. (6-7 pts.)	Presentation is a rehash of other people's ideas and/or graphics and shows very little attempt at original thought. Use of font, color, graphics, effects etc. but these often distract from the presentation content. (0-5 pts.)
<b>Presentation (20 pts.)</b>	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, and mispronounces no words. Stays on topic all (100%) of the time. Stands up straight, looks relaxed and confident. Establishes eye contact with everyone in the room during the presentation. Facial expressions and body language generate a strong interest and enthusiasm about the topic in others. Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed. (20 pts.)	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, but mispronounces one word. Stays on topic most (99-90%) of the time. Stands up straight and establishes eye contact with everyone in the room during the presentation. Facial expressions and body language sometimes generate a strong interest and enthusiasm about the topic in others. Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals. (17-19 pts.)	Speaks clearly and distinctly most (94-85%) of the time. Mispronounces no more than one word. Stays on topic some (89%-75%) of the time. Sometimes stands up straight and establishes eye contact. Facial expressions and body language are used to try to generate enthusiasm, but seem somewhat faked. The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking. (14-16 pts.)	Often mumbles or cannot be understood OR mispronounces more than one word. It was hard to tell what the topic was. Slouches and/or does not look at people during the presentation. Very little use of facial expressions or body language. Did not generate much interest in topic being presented. Student does not seem at all prepared to present. (0-13 pts.)
<b>TOTAL</b>  <hr/> <b>100 pts.</b>				



# Student Sign Up for 12<sup>th</sup> Grade T, H, GT, GS,

If you have never created an Edmodo Account, you can create a new Student Account by following the steps below:

1. Obtain a **6-digit Group Code** from your teacher. Group Code: **pwawhd**
2. Go to [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) and click "I'm a Student."
3. Fill out the **registration form** with the Group Code, a unique username, and password. *An email address is not required to sign up for a Student Account.*
4. Select the "**Sign up**" button to complete the sign up process.

If your Group code is unlocked, you will then see the Group your teacher created in the left side panel of your account. If your Group code is locked, then you will be placed into an approval queue and you will be added to the Group when your Teacher approves your Group join Request.

**Note:** *You only need one Student Account to [join all your Groups!](#)*