



2026 – 2027 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

12th Grade

Mrs. Dick

ENG IV

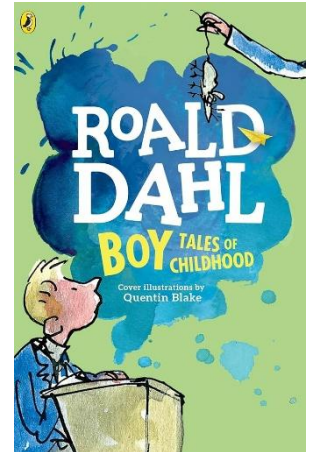
READING REQUIREMENT

- **Boy: Tales of Childhood** by Roald Dahl

ASSIGNMENT

This book is one of my favorite memoirs. I have read it several times, and it never fails to make me laugh out loud. Roald Dahl may be a master of writing children's literature (you are probably most familiar with *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Willy Wonka); my personal favorite is *The BFG*), but he also writes with a depth that goes beyond elementary school as he considers that memories that influence us later in life.

Heading into your senior year, you are in a unique position to look back at the events that have shaped you at the same time that you are looking ahead to your future.



As part of that contemplation, this is your task: As you read *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, complete **5 of the following 9 journal options in the composition notebook** (provided). Your responses should demonstrate thoughtful reading, strong writing, and personal reflection.

Requirements:

- Choose **any 4 journal entries** to complete. + **everyone must complete Journal #5**
- Label each entry clearly with the Journal # written as a title in the center at the top of the page.
- Journal entries must be **handwritten** in a composition notebook. Page length is based on the lines on the page – if you double-space, double the lines.
- Include page numbers when asked.
- Visuals may be hand-drawn, digital, photographed, or printed – it would be fun if you found old photos of when you were the age in the story you are writing about. Paste them right onto the page as your illustration.
- Use complete sentences and appropriate grammar and spelling.

In addition, we will have a **discussion** about parts of the book that you found interesting or have questions about (NOTE: Don't be confused when you get to page 154 – “Fagging” was a system used in some older British boarding schools where younger students were expected to do chores and errands for older students, almost like personal assistants. The practice was considered part of school tradition and hierarchy, though today it would likely be viewed as unfair or inappropriate).

We may also have a **short reading quiz** during the first week of school (your discussion needs to convince me that you actually read the book!), and you need turn in your completed journal.

DUE DATE

Bring your completed journal and copy of *Boy* to class on the first day of school

GRADING / EXPECTATIONS

Your journal entries will be graded based on the following:

- **Completion of Requirements** – Each entry fully follows the assigned prompt and includes all required components.
- **Thoughtfulness and Depth** – Responses show meaningful reflection, creativity, and effort.
- **Use of Details** – Writing includes specific examples, strong description, and clear connections to the memoir when appropriate.
- **Organization and Clarity** – Ideas are organized and easy to follow.
- **Writing Quality** – Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences are expected.
- **Visual Components** – Any required visuals are completed and connected to the journal entry.

Entries that are rushed, incomplete, overly brief, or do not follow directions may receive reduced credit.

NEED HELP? Email Mrs. Dick at ldick@scamail.org (please be patient – I will be traveling and will not have access to school email at all times).

Journal Choices

Choose **FOUR** entries to complete + Journal #5 (the letter)

Journal #1 – Childhood Memory Mini-Memoir

Write a vivid mini-memoir about a memory from when you were six years old or younger.

Requirements

- Focus on sensory details:
 - sights
 - sounds
 - smells
 - textures
 - tastes
 - Show the emotional mood of the memory.
 - Help the reader clearly visualize the experience.
 - Length: **1-2 pages**
 - Include **1 visual** > glue it in place
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Journal #2 – Wanting Attention

In *Boy*, Dahl writes: “I felt like a hero, I was a hero. It was marvelous to be so popular.”

Write about a time when you did something to gain attention, approval, respect, laughter, or popularity.

Include

- Background/exposition
- Events leading up to the moment
- What you did
- Immediate consequences
- Long-term effects or reflection

Then, predict what effect Dahl’s “Great Mouse Plot” might have on him later in life.

Requirements

- Minimum: **1 full page**
- Include **1 visual**

Journal #3 – Character Study

Choose **Mr. Coombes** or **Mrs. Pratchett**.

Your Task

1. Create a detailed drawing or visual representation of the character.
 2. Include at least **8 adjectives** describing personality and appearance.
 3. Identify at least **3 explicit details** from the text using page numbers.
 4. Include at least **3 inferences** by explaining how the text led you to include certain details.
 - Example:
“Because Dahl says ___ on page __, I drew ___.”
 5. Briefly explain who this character reminds you of and why.
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Journal #4 – “A Visit to the Doctor”

At the end of the chapter, Dahl asks:

“I wonder, though, what you would think if some doctor did that to you today.”

Write your own exaggerated or vividly detailed doctor story.

You May

- Base it on a real experience
- Invent the story completely

Focus On

- Strong diction and word choice
- Tone and mood
- Descriptive imagery

Requirements

- **Length:** 1-2 pages
- Include **1 visual**

Journal #5 – Letter to Your Future Self (Required for Everyone)

Write a letter to yourself as you begin your senior year of high school.

In Your Letter

Reflect on:

- who you are right now
- what matters most to you
- what challenges or fears you have
- what goals you hope to accomplish this year
- what kind of person you hope to become

You may also connect your reflections to ideas or experiences from *Boy*.

Requirements

- Write in **letter format**
 - This entry should be completed on its **own separate page**
 - **Length:** 1-2 pages
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Journal #6 – Put Yourself in Dahl's Place

Rewrite one of the following situations from *Boy*, but with **yourself** as the narrator.

Choose One

1. Dealing with the Matron
2. Being homesick
3. The car accident and nose injury

Your Story Should Include

- Clear plot structure
- Specific diction and descriptive details
- How *you* would realistically react

Length: 1-2 pages

Journal #7 – A Meaningful Gesture

Dahl describes a small act of kindness that stayed with him for years.

Write about a time when someone did something that may have seemed small to them but had a meaningful impact on you.

Include

- Description of the event
- Reflection explaining why it mattered
- A theme or life lesson connected to the experience
- One quotation (from a song, movie, book, speech, etc.) that connects to the theme

Length: 1-2 pages

Journal #8 – The “What If?” Story

Roald Dahl often transformed ordinary experiences into imaginative stories by asking:

“What if?” Take a real experience from your life and add a creative “What if?” twist.

Examples

- What if you woke up and everyone in town had forgotten who you were?
- What if a message meant for someone else revealed a dangerous secret?
- What if one small decision completely changed the course of your future?
- What if SCA announced that students would be ranked publicly by intelligence, popularity, or potential?
- What if you discovered that one of your memories was completely false?

Use your “What if?” question as the title and write a short fictional narrative.

Requirements

- Length: **1–2 pages**
- Use strong descriptive writing
- Show how plot elements (setting, conflict, characters, etc.) contribute to the story

Journal #9 – Theme Reflection

After finishing *Boy*, identify what you believe is the memoir's overall theme.

In One Well-Developed Paragraph

Explain:

- the lesson or message Dahl wants readers to understand
- why you believe this is the theme
- how the theme appears across multiple events in the memoir
- give brief examples to support (In the part where he...)

Remember

- A theme should be universal (apply to the book and to you)
- Avoid choosing a topic such as “childhood;” instead, state a message about life.

Example: *Childhood experiences shape the adults we become.*

*I hope you have fun reading the book and writing these prompts. This assignment is homework for me too, so I look forward to sharing my experiences with you when we get back to school in August. 😊