

AP Junior English
Required Summer Reading
Ms. Crago
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Before beginning AP Junior English, you must read The Autobiography of Malcolm X as Told to Alex Haley. As you read, consider the following:

Should this book be called an “autobiography” since it was not written by Malcolm X?

This work is classified as non-fiction although its primary source was Malcolm X’s memory of his life. How reliable is memory? What reasons might someone have to intentionally exaggerate or downplay incidents from his or her life? Is it ethical to include imagined details or dialogue in order to make a work of non-fiction more engaging?

What stages did Malcolm X go through in his life? What factors influenced these changes?

A motif is a recurrent image, word, phrase, represented object or action that tends to unify a literary work or that may be elaborated into a more general theme. What are some motifs and/or themes that are present in this work?

What are some stylistic elements that contribute to the success of this book as a relevant literary work?

When you return to school in September, you will write a brief essay addressing one of the questions above. You may refer to the text and any notes you have taken while reading. Your essays will be written in computer labs during class (for first semester students) or after school (for second semester or absent first semester students). Second semester students should listen for the announcements regarding sign-ups for the after school writing sessions. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at the above address. Have a good summer.