

2017-2018 ELCA Summer Reading and Writing Assignment
ALL Upcoming Students in Grades 9 and 10

Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot
or *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom

You will need to purchase a copy of one of the books *Through Gates of Splendor* or *The Time Keeper* to **read and annotate** over the summer. The annotation assignment is due on the first day of school (July 31). You will need to **bring your annotated book** with you every day for the first week of class. You will be **writing essays in class** during the first week.

As you read your selected novel, **annotate evidence** of the following topics/questions **in your chosen novel**. Obviously, these topics and your annotations will be the source for your class discussions and writings.

Topic 1: **MORALITY** – Do the characters live within any moral constraints or boundaries? Does the book give any indications of the basis for this morality? In other words, if the characters’ behavior is moral, then *why* is it moral? Are these boundaries portrayed in a negative and destructive light or are they seen as positive and healthy? Which, if any, of the characters demonstrate Christian values? How?

Topic 2: **CONSEQUENCES** – Are there consequences for characters who break these moral boundaries? Is this a universe where justice is performed? By whom? How? Is this justice biblical? Find *Bible* scriptures to support your answer.

Topic 3: **PERSPECTIVE** – How does this novel connect to a Christian worldview: a) human nature being both dignified and fallen, b) the possibility of redemption, and c) the possibility of grace and generosity? How does the author develop these themes?

Topic 4: **AGENDAS** – Which worldviews does the book deliberately advocate and/or undermine and call into question? What is the overall “moral of the story”? Find and be prepared to give textual evidence to support this moral.

Final papers will be submitted **after** writing and workshopping **in class** and will be assessed by the following rubric:

90-100 points	80-89 points	70-79 points	0-69 points
--over 15 sentences per topic -- no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- The thesis statement is clear and concise, stating the author's position on the topic. -- <u>Skillfully blends</u> evidence from the text by using both direct quotes and <u>paraphrases</u> with citations. --paper is typed, double-spaced, with size 12 font	--at least 15 sentences per topic --no more than three errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- The thesis statement describes the author’s opinion about the topic. -- Cites evidence from the text by using both direct quotes and <u>paraphrases</u> . --paper is typed, double-spaced, with size 12 font	--at least 10 sentences per topic --no more than five errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- The thesis statement merely answers the prompt but does not express author’s view --attempts textual support -- Cites evidence from the text by using either quotes or paraphrases . --paper is not entirely typed, double-spaced, or in size 12 font	--fewer than 10 sentences per topic --more than five errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- The thesis statement does not give information about what will be discussed or the author's opinion on the subject. --little to none -- Does not reference text evidence. --What? We had to type this paper??