



Summer Reading Assignment revised for 2023-2024

Welcome to ninth grade CORE! We look forward to introducing you to this unique learning experience that will strengthen your skills as a student and your appreciation of the humanities.

In preparation for the 2023-2024 school year, you are required to complete a summer reading assignment. The ninth-grade teaching team has selected the book, *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas, a memoir about an Iranian girl who journeys with her family to America. The genre of memoir may be one that is new to you. It is important to keep in mind that memoir is **the story of a part of someone's life and unlike a biography, which tends to be more factual and chronological, memoir tends to be more creative and focused on a shorter period of time**. More importantly, memoir distinguishes itself as a genre because the author is usually reflective in their writing, providing insights and lessons that they've learned through the events in their life, and sometimes asking the reader to evaluate their own life and experiences.

About the Book:

Light-as-air essays about an immigrant childhood in California.

In 1972, Dumas's father, an employee of the Iranian National Oil Company, which had landed a two-year consulting contract with an American firm, came to the US and brought along the entire family. Although the adventure in their new country begins with the author and her mother getting lost after elementary-school orientation, the Dumases rapidly embrace their new home: Las Vegas becomes their default vacation destination, and they spend every Christmas watching Bob Hope. The author has the usual problems of a stranger in a strange land—nobody can pronounce her name or has any awareness of her homeland—but Dumas tosses in some new ones as well: the communal showers at sleep-away camp (she doesn't bathe for a week) and the disappointment when her father fails to qualify as a contestant on Bowling for Dollars. But these trials pale in comparison to the family's difficulties during the hostage crisis. As vendors begin selling T-shirts that read "Iranians go Home," Dumas's father loses his job and his pension and is forced to sell all the family's belongings. After the crisis ends, he does find a new job, at half his previous salary, but nothing mars his love for his adopted country; Dumas recounts his thoughts on US citizens who shirk their civic duties: "They need to be sent for six months to a nondemocratic country. Then they'll vote." At all times, no matter how heavy the subject matter, Dumas keeps her tone light. Even a disastrous trip to Washington, D.C., to welcome the Shah, complete with death threats from protestors, is played for laughs.

Warm and engaging, despite some creaky prose. (Kirkus Reviews)

About the Author (Adapted from Penguin Random House Academic Resources):

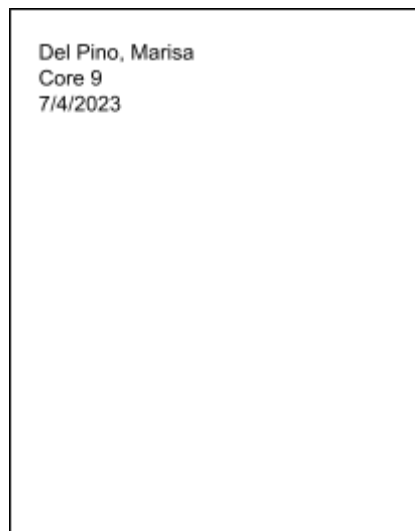
Firoozeh Dumas was born in Abadan, Iran, and moved to California at the age of seven. She is the author of three books, one screenplay, a one-woman show, and many articles for magazines and newspapers, including the New York Times. Since 2003, she has spoken at hundreds of schools, conferences, and festivals. She believes that everyone has a story to tell and that everyone's story counts.

General Directions:

Read **ALL** of the questions **BEFORE** you begin reading her memoir, so you know what you're looking for. We would even recommend taking notes (annotating) as you read (on paper, in the book, on a Google Doc, a Word Doc, on post-its, or whatever works for you). **Note-taking is only a suggestion and is not a required part of this assignment.** However, if you know what you're looking for as you read, it may be easier to pay attention to the story and the way Firoozeh tells it. These questions cover the entire book, so your teachers will be looking for evidence that you read the whole book, not just particular chapters to answer these questions. Keep in mind, for this assignment there are no right or wrong answers. We are most interested in hearing your insights about the text.

How to Format your Paper:

- Make sure you use a proper heading on the left-hand side of the paper. See example below:

A rectangular box with a black border containing the following text:

Del Pino, Marisa
Core 9
7/4/2023

- Your paper should be double-spaced, written in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font
- Your response to each question should be numbered.
- Skip a space between each response.

Part One: Reader's Inventory

First, we would like to get to know you as a reader...

1. Do you like to read? Why or why not?
2. How often do you read for pleasure? Explain.
3. Please rate yourself as a reader on a scale of 1-10 and explain why you gave yourself that rating.
4. What's your favorite book? Why?
5. What's your favorite book that you've read in school? Why? What made the reading of that book an enjoyable experience?

Part Two: Personal Reflection

Then, we are interested in your reaction to the book in general...

1. What was the most challenging part of reading Firoozeh's story? Why?
2. What is your favorite chapter of Firoozeh's story? Why?

Part Three: Text Study

Now, let's get into the specific aspects of the story that make the overall memoir what it is.

1. **DICTION, or WORD CHOICE**, is simply the words the writer chooses to convey a particular meaning. When analyzing diction, look for specific words or short phrases that seem stronger than others.

While reading, find a short passage that has specific words or short phrases that stand out to you. Copy the words or phrases (citing the page number) and explain why it stood out to you. Explain the *impact* these words had on you.

2. One of the elements of memoir that makes it different from the genre of biography is the **AUTHOR'S REFLECTION**. The **AUTHOR'S REFLECTION** consists of the lessons they gain from their experiences which ultimately result in the messages that they attempt to convey to readers. Rather than just a retelling of experiences, think about how the author uses their experiences to send an overall message to their audience.

Identify one place in the text where Firoozeh Dumas reflects on her experiences- copy the passage and cite the page number. Then, explain why you chose this particular passage. Answer the following questions in your response:

- What does she tell you, the reader, in this passage?
- Is this section written differently than other parts of the story?
- What do you believe she wants you to take away from that section/her story?

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is crucial to the integrity of the individual student and our program. All students at Cleveland Humanities Magnet are expected to meet the highest standards of honesty in their academic work. You must **do your own work**. We also encourage you to not put off the summer assignment until the last minute.

Turnitin.com is the cloud-based service we use to check for originality and detect plagiarism. It is used by more than 10,000 institutions in 135 countries, including many high schools and universities, to manage the tracking, submission, and evaluation of student work online. Due to our high standards of academic honesty, students will be required to use Turnitin.com throughout their four years in the Core program.

Finally, with the introduction of AI writing programs like ChatGPT, GrammarlyAI, Quillbot, and other similar programs offering artificially generated written content, we remind students that all submitted assignments **must be a student's original work!** Work that is flagged as generated by AI will be subject to the same consequences as plagiarized work.

How to submit your summer assignment:

1. Please turn in your summer assignment online to **turnitin.com**. See instructions below.
2. Also, bring a **hard copy** of your summer assignment on **the first day of school** to your **Core English teacher**.

Turnitin.com Instructions:

1. Go to www.turnitin.com
2. If you already have an account, go to the top right hand corner of the page and enter your email address and password. If you do *not* already have an account, click *Create Account*.
3. Click on student
4. Input the class ID number: **39070474** | Input the class enrollment password: **corebaby**
5. Your class will show up on your homepage. Click on the name of your class to open your class portfolio: **9th Grade CORE 2023-2024**
6. Your class portfolio shows the assignments your instructor has created and your submissions to the class. To submit a paper, click the submit button next to the paper's assignment. **(Summer Assignment-Funny in Farsi Text Study)**
7. The paper submission page will open. Enter a title for your paper. To select a paper for submission, click the *browse* button and locate the paper on your computer. We accept submissions in these formats:
 - MS Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, and plain text (.txt)

After entering a title for your paper and selecting a file, click *submit* to upload your paper. If your paper is in a format that we do not accept, you can submit it by cut and paste. To submit a paper this way, select *cut & paste* using the pull down at the top of the form. To submit a paper by cut and paste, copy the text of your paper from a word processing program and then paste it into the text box in the submission form. If you submit your paper using the cut and paste method, you can skip the next step.

The paper you chose to submit will be shown on the next page. Look over all the information and make sure that it is correct. To confirm the submission, click the *yes, submit* button. The format will be correct on the paper you turn in, even if it does not appear correct when you review it.

After you confirm your submission, a digital receipt will be shown. This receipt will be e-mailed to you. To return to your portfolio and view your submission, click the portfolio button.

8. Turn in a paper copy on the first day of school.

9. Submission starts on **June 12, 2023** and will end on **August 11, 2023 at 11:59 pm**.

10. *If you have any questions/issue regarding the summer assignment or turnitin.com please contact Grace Oh (goh@corebaby.org) or Joseph Kim (jkim@corebaby.org)