

Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption and an Unlikely Family by Lisa Fenn.

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Essay Writing Project

Essay Writing Project: The emphasis of this project is interpretation and communication.

Working from one of the writing prompts provided below, write a five to seven paragraph personal essay. Use words carefully (no less than 600, no more than 800.) Demonstrate that you've read and understood the book while presenting ideas related to the prompt that are original and insightful. This is not a book report. The content of your essay needs to link to a theme(s) in *Carry On* while reflecting on how the book helped you to realize something new, experience it more deeply or actually changed your attitude. The prompt will help you stay on track.

The essay prompts you may choose from are (select one):

- Write about how *Carry On* shows that there's more to poverty than just money; how is poverty more than an income problem?
- How do sports and participation in sports help Dartanyon and Leroy, both in terms of achievement and personal growth?
- In what ways does the definition of family evolve in *Carry On*?

If one of the above prompts doesn't appeal to you, consider this service related essay prompt:

- How did reading *Carry On* inspire your summer experience and change the way you see those in need or the way you see the world?** You'll need to find a way to connect with someone in your community the way Ms. Fenn connected with Leroy and Dartanyon. Ms. Fenn was making a documentary. You will be finding a personal story for your essay. Come up with a community involvement project for the summer that will allow you to step into a relationship with someone in need.

Remember, you are not bringing money to your service experience, you are bringing YOU. Your essay will be about how *Carry On* inspired you to step out of your comfort zone and into making a meaningful connection with someone. Ask around. You'll need a lead, and idea about a connection you'll want to make with someone through your church or community center, or it could be a neighbor or a relative you've wanted to know better. There's a list of Service Opportunities Fenwick sometimes relies on among these project sheets or find one of your own.

Be sure to write an effective essay using appropriate style and structure to clearly convey your reflection on ideas provided in one of the writing prompts. Use direct quotes from *Carry On* to support your point and be sure to include a full citation for the book along with in-text citations following each quote. To avoid writing a fluff piece, you must first read the book and then do sufficient analysis of its content. Keep a reading journal. Your work will be so much easier once you start to write.

Keep the "personal" in this personal essay. Ms. Fenn will be visiting the campus in the fall to speak to everyone about her experiences working at ESPN, writing *Carry On* and how her "unlikely family" is doing today. No doubt she will read more than a few of the essays written by our students before she visits so make sure yours is interesting, relevant to the themes in *Carry On* and has a bit of you in it.

Please see the FAQ sheet for the Essay Writing Project and the rubric for details. For more information, contact Diane Smith, Library Director dms@fenwick.org