

English IV  
Summer Reading Assignments 2019-2020  
New Albany High School  
[kball@nasd.ms](mailto:kball@nasd.ms)

**Text: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch**

([http://coachsmithushistoryclass.weebly.com/uploads/8/5/4/8/8548767/the\\_last\\_lecture\\_by\\_randy\\_pausch.pdf](http://coachsmithushistoryclass.weebly.com/uploads/8/5/4/8/8548767/the_last_lecture_by_randy_pausch.pdf))

(Download the PDF to IBook)

***Point Value – 100 Points (Major Grade)***

**Directions:** Below, you will see journal topics for each part/section of the *The Last Lecture*. I have divided the book into thirds. **For each division, choose 4 topics to write about.**

- Each journal response should be a complete, 6-8 sentence paragraph
- Use at least ONE INCORPORATED QUOTE in each journal response.
- *Type all entries in 12-point Times New Roman font and submit as a PDF in Canvas*

\**Plagiarism* is a serious academic offense and will result in a grade of “0.” Be sure to *cite all quotations and borrowed ideas*. While collaborating with others in the class to discuss the book is acceptable, you should complete all assignments independently.

\*Assignments are due on ***June 28 (Assignment 1)***, ***July 19 (Assignment 2)***, and ***August 2 (Assignment 3)*** and will be submitted through Canvas.

**Assignment I : Introduction ; Chapter 1-11 (pp. 3-54) - DUE Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> (33 pts.)**

**Choose 4 of the following topics:**

1. When the author found out about his “ten tumors in my liver” he said he wanted to “put myself in a bottle that would one day wash up on the beach of my children. If I were a painter, I would have painted for them. If I were a musician, I would have composed music. But I am a lecturer. So I lectured.”

*What are you? What would you do to communicate who you are to others?*

Explain why you would choose to communicate in this way. Choose *the top 5 words* you would love to hear people say about you. For instance, if you were gone tomorrow, what words would you like to hear describing you after you die? Explain why you would want these words to describe you.

2. In Chapter 3, Randy states, “We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand” (17). Explain the meaning of this quote and how it relates to your attitude during a challenging time in your life.
3. In Chapter 4, Randy says that his dad was an “incredible storyteller, “and he always said that stories should be told for a reason” (29). Who in your life loves to tell stories with a purpose? Re-tell one of his or her stories and explain how it impacted you.
4. In Chapter 5, Randy talks about how his parents let him paint his childhood bedroom. What is something crazy your parents gave you permission to do that you’re thankful for? Something that sparked your imagination or creativity, or maybe just gave you a great memory to reflect on?
5. Write about some of the dreams you had as a child. You can talk about any you want, no matter how silly they may sound. Which of your dreams do you still want to come true? Talk about what it will take to make these dreams come true. Do you truly have faith and believe that they are possible? Explain.
6. Chapter 7 is about football, but so many of the lessons in it can apply elsewhere in our lives. Randy loved using “head fakes.” What are some other “head fakes” that teachers and parents have used effectively with you?
7. Randy gets to meet one of his childhood heroes, William Shatner. He admires that William Shatner asks lots of questions and is a man who knows what he doesn’t know and isn’t scared to admit it until he can learn better. Randy said that, to him, is heroic. What is your definition of heroic? Who has impressed or influenced you by his or her heroic qualities?
8. The stuffed animals mentioned in Chapter 10 show Randy’s belief that you don’t cheat your way to what you want; you get it through practice, hard work, and perseverance. What is your “stuffed animal” that you know you will only be able to obtain through an amazing amount of hard work? What is your plan to get it? How hard are you willing to work for it? Does it seem worth it?

**Assignment 2: Ch. 12 – 27 (pages 57-128) – DUE Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> (34 pts.)**

**Choose 4 of the following topics:**

9. It was Randy’s dream to go to the “Happiest Place on Earth” and work as an Imagineer. It came true. His mantra was: **“The brick walls are there for a reason. They’re not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something” (59).** What is one of your brick walls that is keeping you from your dreams?
10. We all need people in our lives who will be honest with us and tell us things we don’t necessarily want to hear. Write about someone (or maybe more than one person) that you can count on to be honest with you, even when it hurts—who will tell you what you need to hear no matter what. Why do you think you are willing to listen to that person? Then write about a time that you were able to make a positive change because of the advice that person gave you.
11. Twice so far, we have read about times when Randy did not worry about his vehicles being damaged. This reflects his belief that people are more important than material possessions. This is easy to say, but much harder to demonstrate. Tell of a time you had to put this belief into practice.
12. Randy stresses the importance of making the most of your time because “time is all you have” (111). Tell about a specific time you felt you spent your time wisely and “...on the right things” (108). Explain how you felt rewarded or a sense of purpose and accomplishment
13. Have you ever been a mentor to someone? How did you help this person? How did the experience help you? Describe how the relationship developed and what happened.
14. Randy found out after his father’s death of a heroic act he had performed yet never mentioned. Have you ever been surprised by a story about a relative, whether positively or negatively? Tell that story and how it impacted or affected you.
15. When has the truth “set you free”? Tell about a time you were in a situation in which you were tempted to lie, but by telling the truth, things worked out for the best.

**Assignment 3 : Ch. 28-61 (pages 131-206) – DUE Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (33 pts.)**

**Choose 2 of the following topics:**

16. Review *Chapters 28-32*. (pages 131-139). FOR EACH OF THE FIVE CHAPTERS, write a *summary* in the form of a 140-character “tweet.” No more than 140 characters! Each “tweet” must be a *summary* of the “big idea” of the chapter *without quoting* anything from the chapter. (***Write chapter number before each quote and paraphrase***)
17. Review *Chapters 33-37* (pages 139-146). FOR EACH OF THE FIVE CHAPTERS, choose one quote that is representative of that chapter. Then *paraphrase* the quote – *write it in your own words*. Finally, write at least one additional sentence relating the quote to your life in some way. (***Write chapter number before each quote and paraphrase***)
18. Choose one of the *clichés* listed in bold in Chapter 38 (pages 146-148). Explain a time when this cliché applied to a situation in your life.
19. Do you agree with Randy that there’s such a thing as a “bad” apology? Have you ever given or received a “bad” apology? What made it so? Describe what happened as a result.
20. Choose one of the “rights” that we enjoy in our GREAT, AMAZING country. Discuss the responsibilities that come with this right.
  - A. The right to bear arms
  - B. The right of free religion
  - C. the right of free speech
  - D. the right to vote

**Write on BOTH of the following topics:**

21. Now that you’ve read the best advice Randy Pausch has to offer you, write a *6-8 sentence journal* giving your best advice. What have you learned in life so far? What advice would you offer to someone younger and less worldly and wise than yourself?
22. “Carpe Diem” is a Latin phrase meaning “Seize the day.” How does this quote apply to your attitude and expectations as you begin your senior year? How does it apply to your goals in life? (*Length – 6-8 sentences*)