

Quest Forward High School
2026 - 2027
10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Summer reading is designed to keep your mind active, improve your literacy skills, and prepare you for the upcoming school year. This assignment ensures you are ready to participate in class discussions, projects, and assessments from the first day of school.

Failure to read the assigned book and submit this corresponding packet by the deadline of **Friday, August 14th, 2026** will result in a deduction of points towards the assignment grade.

Learning Objective: Students will read *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative* by Thomas King and analyze how stories shape human understanding of and relationships with nature by creating a three-entry reflective journal that connects personal experiences, cultural narratives, and direct observation to concepts from Thomas King's "The Truth About Stories."

Success Criteria:

- I can reflect on personal experiences using King's narrative framework.
- I can identify cultural stories that influence my environmental perspective.
- I can synthesize direct observation with reflective analysis.

Assignment Context: In *The Truth About Stories*, Thomas King explores how the stories we hear (and the ones we tell) shape our understanding of the world. How do stories shape the way humans understand and interact with *nature and the environment*, specifically? For this assignment, **you will create a 3-entry journal** that blends personal reflection, observation, and analysis. Each entry should be approximately 1 handwritten page (for a total of 3 pages).

Entry 1: Relationships with Nature (1 page)

Reflect on a personal experience where you felt a strong connection (or disconnect) with the natural world (a place you've been, a memory outdoors, etc.).

- How does this experience mirror King's ideas about our responsibilities to the land?
- How did this experience shape how you see nature?
- Connect your experience to one idea from *The Truth About Stories* about how people understand or relate to the land

Entry 2: Stories About Nature (1 page)

Identify a cultural narrative (a myth, a book, a movie, or a family tale) that shaped your early understanding of nature. Does this story promote a relationship of dominance or cooperation?

- What "stories" have you been taught about nature? (These could come from school, family, media, culture, etc.)
- Do these stories present nature as something to respect, control, use, or something else?
- How does this compare to the perspectives Thomas King presents?

Entry 3: Observation and Reflection (1 page)

Go outside for at least 20 minutes and observe a single natural element (a tree, a patch of grass, the sky). Record your sensory observations and then explain: If this element could tell a story, what would it say about its relationship with humans today?

- Describe what you observe using vivid detail
- Reflect on how being in that space makes you feel
- Consider: what "story" does this place tell?
- How might your understanding of nature change if you saw it through a different perspective (like the ones King discusses)?