

Quest Forward High School
2026 - 2027
9th 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 *What It Is* by Lynda Barry and will demonstrate creative expression and self-reflection by choosing between two storytelling assignments inspired by Lynda Barry's narrative techniques and visual style.

Success Criteria:

- I can identify a core memory.
- I can apply Barry's "un-think" drawing methods.
- I can combine handwritten text with visuals.

After reading *What It Is* by Lynda Barry, select **ONE** of the two creative options below to complete. Consider which format allows you to most authentically explore your memories.

Option 1: The Photo Story

Select a photograph from your childhood that sparks a **strong feeling or curiosity**. Using the specific guiding questions from page 186 of Barry's *What It Is*, write a 300-word narrative that dives into the 'unseen' world of the image, not just describing the image.

- Identify the central emotion of the photo.
- Focus on sensory details (sounds, smells, temperatures).
- Write in the present tense to bring the memory to life.

Option 2: The Memory Collage

Create a visual collage using photos, drawings, doodles, or other visuals (maximum size 8.5" x 11") that expresses the raw emotions of a **meaningful memory**. This should be a 'Barry-esque' composition focusing on expressing emotions, mood, and atmosphere of the experience.

- Focus on mood and color rather than perfect realism.
- Include a 100-word handwritten reflection on the back of the collage.
- Explain how the visual elements represent the feeling of the memory.