



Summer 2026

Dear Incoming Freshmen Parents and Students:

Please refer to the Required Reading List for assigned novels for each grade. A copy of this list can be found on the Calvary website <https://www.calvaryacademy.org/> under Current Families>Documents & Forms>Required Reading & Supplies. In addition to summer reading, each high school class is assigned a writing component to support comprehension and critical thinking.

This summer, the 9th grade will be reading *Eyes of the Tailless Animals*, *Prison Memoirs of a North Korean Woman* by Soon Ok Lee. This book is an extraordinary story of a woman who survived a concentration camp in North Korea, witnessed Christian persecution, and became a witness for Christ. Please read the entire book, review the writing requirements/directions carefully, and answer the reflection questions according to the directions. During the first full week of school, a test will be scheduled.

In the event your Reflection Questions are misplaced, copies are available from our office, can be found on our website with the link above, or you can work on an electronic copy in your One Note notebook. Your notebook for next year is labeled 9th LA 2026-2027. You will find copies in the Eyes of the Tailless Animals tab.

Have a wonderful summer and if you need to reach out to me, I am available all summer via email or Teams. I can be reached via email at: anamowitz@calvaryacademy.org

I can't wait to see you in September!

Blessings,

Mrs. Namowitz

9th Grade Summer Writing: Eyes of the Tailless Animals: Reflection Questions

Requirements:

- MLA Heading, Word Doc, Typed, Double Spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt Font, Works Cited page to include the book and another source used in answering these questions.
- Type up questions and answers
- Answers that are found in the book, for example, questions 2,3,4,5,8, must be cited
- You must answer in complete sentences and each response should be approx. 4-7 sentences using RACES format (see below)

Reflective Questions (5 points each)

1. How does the reading challenge you socially, culturally, emotionally, or theologically?
2. What have you learned about North Korea after reading this book?
3. What have you learned about the persecuted church in North Korea?
4. What experiences of the author did you find impactful? Why? (Name 3)
5. What experiences of the author did you find disturbing? Why? (Name 3)
6. How has the reading changed your way of thinking?
7. Discuss how God intervened in the author's life.
8. How does the title of the book reflect the author's experience?
9. After reading this book, what are your views on: (select 1)
 - a. Opening tourism from the US to North Korea
 - b. Athletes visiting with the President of North Korea

Writing Responses Using RACES

R/A: Restate/Answer Question =Assertion/Claim/Argument/ Thesis
(Topic+ Position+ Rationale)

Add: Context(background information to support your assertion)

C- Cite Embedded Quotes (select the best text evidence to support your assertion-no naked quotes!)

E- Explain/ Analyze- how your quote supports your assertion

S- Summary statement that summarizes your position and concludes your assertion (do no repeat yourself)

USE STRONG VERBS!!!