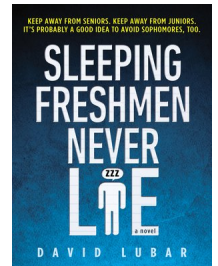




Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy
Summer Reading Assignment - 2025/2026
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar
LA9 H & LA9



Dear Incoming Freshmen and Parents:

Each summer, students at Collegiate Academy have a summer reading assignment. Literacy is a key component in being successful in high school, and our summer reading assignment is designed to help students maintain—and even sharpen—the skills they already possess. This year's summer reading assignment for LA9 H and LA9 is based on David Lubar's novel *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*.

Students should obtain their own personal copy of *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*. The book can be purchased in person at Barnes and Noble, online at [BarnesandNoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), or other online book retailers. Finally, E-books are also acceptable if you have an e-reader.

ASSIGNMENT:

Once you obtain your own copy, you should **read/annotate the novel**. When you read, it is important to annotate, or interact, with the text. We all naturally have ideas, feelings, mental images, and questions while reading; annotating is simply *noting* these ideas, feelings, mental images, questions, etc. Use sticky notes to write down your reactions and significant passages/quotes in the text that you find particularly interesting or important.

During the first week of school, **you will be tested on the book and complete a brief writing assignment**. Make sure to **add page numbers on the sticky notes for the quotes you copy directly from the text**. You will need them when adding textual evidence to your writing. We will continue our study of the novel into the beginning of the school year, so it is imperative that all reading is completed by the time school starts.

BOOK SUMMARY: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar (Young Adult Fiction)

"Scott Hudson is the quintessential freshman. He's small, he's lost, and seniors yoke him for spare change. His honors homework keeps him up all night and his gym teacher is trying to kill him. He joins the paper, runs for student council, and tries out for the play, just to be near a girl he likes. This all backfires. He turns out to be the least athletic sports reporter in school history, and freshman lackey to the sadists on stage crew. Meanwhile, his mother is pregnant. The plot is framed by Scott's journal of advice for the unborn baby. The novel's absurd, comical mood is evident in its entries, like "Scott Hudson's List of Good Things about Getting Beat Up," and jabs at the fetus ("I hope we can recover our investment [in baby furniture] when I sell you."). The author brings the protagonist to three-dimensional life by combining these introspective musings with active, hilarious narration. This format also breaks up the story for slower readers. Scott's character arc is extremely satisfying as he develops his true strengths over the nine months of school and the pregnancy. His interactions with the school delinquent and the heavily pierced new girl are fresh and subtle. Though Scott purposely peppers his journal with SAT words, Lubar's language use and writing style are deceptively simple. The teen's physical and emotional tumult is as clear, familiar, and complex as high school itself."

-Johanna Lewis, School Library Journal, www.amazon.com.

TRIGGER WARNING: This book contains themes and scenes and discussion of a suicide attempt, which may be distressing or triggering for some readers. Reader discretion is advised, and it is recommended to approach this material with care and sensitivity. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please seek help from a trusted adult or mental health professional, call Erie County Office of Mental Health at (814) 456-2014, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988, or visit 988lifeline.org.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Ms. Christine Balsiger
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Language Arts Teacher

Always Reaching Higher



A NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Every assignment you do in school is meant to measure your knowledge of something or your ability to do something. The grade you receive on an assignment should reflect that knowledge or ability. But an assignment cannot truly measure your knowledge or ability if you have not done your own work.

Your in-class writing and annotations should be the product solely of your thoughts, effort, and ideas.

1. Do not use websites: your teachers are not interested in what websites say. We are interested in *your* ideas, interpretations, and arguments.
2. Do not in any way work with someone else on this assignment. You should not copy off of a classmate, nor should you let a classmate copy off of you.
3. Do not use AI technology, such as ChatGPT or any other service or app that generates text using AI, to write any part of your assignment.

All in-class writing will be typed and submitted to turnitin.com during the first week of school.

Turnitin.com detects all text that has been taken from websites, other student papers, and AI generators.

If your writing shows any evidence of your having violated #1, #2 or #3, you will receive a zero on the assignment, and you will not be given the opportunity to redo it.