



# Westminster Christian Academy

## 9th Grade Summer Reading

### Honors Expository Writing

[\*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn\*](#) by Betty Smith

Annotate for and consider these ideas while reading:

1. **PERSEVERANCE:** How does the presence of or a lack of perseverance affect a person's life? Annotate for how the characters in the novel struggle against or give in to poverty, failure, or temptation. Notice the symbolism of the tree throughout the novel.
2. **IDENTITY:** What influences shape and guide who a person becomes? Annotate for the people, experiences, culture, religion, traditions, customs, and education that mold Francie Nolan's identity.
3. **EDUCATION:** What is education? What relationship do the characters in the novel have with education and how does this affect their lives?

These annotations can be **highlighted** or underlined, or a student may choose to use {brackets} or \*stars\* next to key passages. To receive full credit for annotations, students should mark at least 8-10 passages per theme, and they should briefly comment in the margins or on a Post-it note about how the passage reveals the theme. These annotations will not only earn students a grade upon returning to school but will also play a key role in our first major assignment.

Please email Heidi Thies at [hthies@wcastl.org](mailto:hthies@wcastl.org) if you have any questions.