



# 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 perseverance or a lack of it 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, shapes, and guides 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 (24–30 annotations total), and they should briefly comment in the margins or on Post-it notes 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 Lauren Simpson at [lsimpson@wcastl.org](mailto:lsimpson@wcastl.org) if you have any questions.