

Religion 11

Summer Reading

Nickel and Dimed

On (Not) Getting By in America

By Barbara Ehrenreich

Nickel and Dimed presents the author's solidarity with low-wage workers in Florida, Maine, and Minnesota. Ehrenreich leaves the comfort of her home to travel and take on jobs as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing home aide and Wal-Mart salesperson. She seeks to find out how anyone can survive by working a minimum-wage job; her book exposes the challenges faced by the working poor.

Your assignment for the summer is to...

- First, read the book and take notes that capture the challenges of the author and her fellow low-wage workers in Florida, Maine and Minnesota.
- Second, write a reflection paper (2 pages) about the book, due after YSOP.

This paper will consist of three parts:

- Summary- Note the similarities and differences that marked the author's work and living experiences in Florida, Maine and Minnesota.
- Analysis- What factors or obstacles prevented the author from surviving on jobs that paid \$7.00 per hour?
- Reflection- Were your perceptions of low-wage American earners changed or reinforced by reading this book? Why?

The reflection paper must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins on each side and fonts 11 or 12 size, Times New Roman, black ink. The paper should be carefully edited.