

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition for the 2022-23 school year! We'll be spending a great year together reading classic American fiction along with a wide variety of historical and current non-fiction. In order to start the course, every student is required to read at least one non-fiction book during the summer. The book options are listed on the back of this page. **Please purchase a new or used copy of your selected book and annotate it as you read. While only one book is required, more are certainly encouraged.**

Required Assignment:

Please come to school **in August** with thorough, typed responses to the following questions. You will share your work with a small group and then turn in your writing sample. This is your first scored assignment for AP English Language and Composition and will be scored based on completion and evidence of thoughts that extend beyond the superficial, the shallow or the obvious. This is *analysis*, not summary. The work you turn in should reflect your reading, reflection and ability to present complex thoughts.

1. What is the primary purpose of the book?
2. Who is the primary audience?
3. What is the significance of the title?
4. What is the author's claim?
 - A. Is there more than one obvious claim?
 - B. Did you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with the claim?
 - C. What type of evidence does the author use to establish his/her claim? (scientific proof, anecdote, opinion, historical facts, statistics, emotional appeal?)
5. Consider the *rhetorical triangle*: Authors use logos (logic/facts), ethos (ethical appeal) and/or pathos (emotion) to persuade. Describe which of these techniques this author relies on most heavily. Why?
6. What is the author's point of view? *First person, third person limited or omniscient*. What is the effect of that choice? How does it impact the storytelling?
7. How would you summarize the author's style/and tone? Is it formal and scholarly? Is it familiar and casual? Bitter? Angry? Harsh? Objective or biased? How can you tell? Provide an example that shows this.
8. Describe an important event or passage from the book—one that stuck with you after you finished reading. This is usually the one you find yourself sharing with others.
9. Describe one particular effect the book had on your beliefs, thoughts or preconceived ideas. That is, describe a place in the book that supported or challenged some belief.
10. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

While only one book is required, more are certainly encouraged. This list includes a *wide* range of topics, themes and ideas. Choose a book you care about and enjoy. Don't waste a day of summer reading something you don't enjoy. Just choose something else from this list, or contact me with another idea.

Looking for more this summer? Find a podcast you enjoy, listen to a TED talk on a topic you're curious about, or read. Read some more. Read a little more after that. Read at the lake, read when you need a reason to get away from your cousins who have stayed *just a little too long*. Just read and learn. Then keep reading. Read, think, learn, grow.

Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"—the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

No one Cares about Crazy People by Ron Powers

New York Times-best-selling author Ron Powers offers a searching, richly researched narrative of the social history of mental illness in America paired with the deeply personal story of his two sons' battles with schizophrenia.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.

Educated by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University.

Stiff by Mary Roach

Stiff is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings.

The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr

"Is Google making us stupid?" When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He

also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net's bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply?

Rats: History & Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants by Robert Sullivan

For a year, Sullivan made pilgrimages to a "filth-slicked little alley" near City Hall to observe rats in their natural habitat. He also trolled libraries for rat lore and interviewed exterminators, biologists, politicians, and ordinary citizens about the timeless struggle against New York's "most unwanted inhabitants." time of the Black Death.

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of 36, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated.

Race: A History Beyond Black and White by Marc Aronson

The story of Race. You know it at a glance: he's black; she's white. They're Asian; we're Latino. Racism. I'm better; she's worse. Those people do those kinds of things. We all know it's wrong to make these judgments, but they come faster than thought. Why have millions been enslaved, murdered, denied their rights because of the color of their skin, the shape of their eyes?

The Case Against Sugar by Gary Taubes

From the best-selling author of *Why We Get Fat*, a groundbreaking, eye-opening exposé that makes the convincing case that sugar is the tobacco of the new millennium: backed by powerful lobbies, entrenched in our lives, and making us very sick.

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies by Jared Diamond

A major advance in our understanding of human societies, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

This book has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander's unforgettable argument that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it."

***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything**

by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? How much do parents really matter? These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist.

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