

AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading 2018

SparkNotes Version of AP Lang Summer Reading Expectations: By August 12th, you will:

- Read a text from the list + submit a reading quiz to Washburn.
- Read articles in the NYTimes & submit 5+ reviews to the online contest. Submit screenshots to Washburn.
- Write a longer (1+pg) reflection synthesizing noticings from your current events reading. Submit to Washburn.

I am SO excited to work with you all next year in AP English! This class is going to grow and stretch you - and make sure that you are ready for any text or piece of writing you encounter in college! To that end, I'm sharing a summer reading assignment for you to complete in the next few weeks.

The *WHYS* of Summer Reading:

- ★ Have you heard of the summer slide? The statistics on what happens when students do not read over the summer are pretty scary:
 - Students who do not read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement.
 - Reading loss is cumulative. This cumulative loss makes it very difficult to close the achievement gap that exists during the school year alone.
- ★ Research also shows that people who read gain great benefits, such as lower stress levels, higher degrees of empathy & cultural awareness, and are able to sleep better. Summer reading is just another way to make your summer break THAT much more relaxing.

The *WHAT* of Summer Reading:

- 1) **ONE choice text + reading quiz:** You will read (and/or listen to) this choice text and answer the questions in the short reading quiz below. You will need to **email me your reading quiz by midnight on August 12th** (kwashburn@thefsi.us). You can choose any text from the list below, or you can ask me for approval for a different text.
*Note: Since AP Language & Composition is a class rooted in non-fiction, I strongly suggest that you choose a **non-fiction title**. However, the choice is yours!
- 2) **NYTimes current events contest:** Every summer, the NYTimes has a 10-week summer reading contest from June 15th to August 24th in which they ask students every Friday, "What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?" You then have until the following Friday to answer, when a team of Times journalists choose their favorite responses and they publish them [here](#).
 - a) For at least 5 out of the 10 weeks, you'll read article(s) in the New York Times and **write a response for each of the 5 articles** to submit to the contest. **Screenshot** the responses and store them in a document to submit to me with your reading quizzes.
 - b) After completing your five reviews, **write a longer reflection (1+pg)** synthesizing the trends you noticed in your reading over the summer. This is not a formal piece, but it should be longer and more thought-out than your short responses. Consider general trends you noticed, themes carried throughout articles, bias in the media, writing style comparison based on topic, etc. Share this reflection, along with the screenshots of your responses, by midnight on August 12th.

Use the rest of this packet to help you complete your assignment ...

FICTION & DRAMA Quiz:

Overall Directions: Use complete sentences and your best academic language to answer the following questions about your chosen summer reading book. If provided, the sentence lengths noted for each question are a minimum requirement.

- **Question 1:** *What is the title, author, and lexile of your book? (www.lexile.com)*
- **Question 2:** *Where did you find this book? (Library? Bookstore? E-text? Borrowed from a friend?)*
- **Question 3:** *Choose one protagonist (main character) from your book and describe this character. (4 sentences)*
- **Question 4:** *Describe how the antagonist (opponent of the main character) challenges the protagonist and what the outcome is. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 5:** *Describe the major conflict of the book. What type of conflict is it? How is this conflict significant in shaping the protagonist? (6 sentences) Reminder: You might have man vs. self, man vs. nature, man vs. man, man vs. society or man vs. technology; internal or external; main or subordinate.*
- **Question 6:** *Select a quotation from the book and explain why it is significant. (4 sentences)*
- **Question 7:** *Write a complete sentence to capture the theme of this book. Then explain why this theme is relevant universally. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 8:** *How many stars would you give this book (between 1-5)? Justify your answer. (4 sentences)*
- **BONUS Question:** (for extra credit / your teacher's respect)
- *Write a paragraph where you analyze the author's characterization of the protagonist through the use of a literary device (or more than one). Consider the following devices: detail, diction, imagery, symbolism and tone.*

NONFICTION Quiz:

- **Question 1:** *What is the title, author, and lexile of your book?*
- **Question 2:** *Where did you find this book? (Library? Bookstore? E-text? Borrowed from a friend?)*
- **Question 3:** *What genre of nonfiction is this text? [Memoir, (auto)biography, interviews, essays, speeches, expository, periodical] What are the text features of this genre that appear in your book? How do these features add to your overall understanding of the book? (4 sentences)*
- **Question 4:** *Summarize the author's purpose in writing this book. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 5:** *List 5 relevant details from this text that you would like to remember as "important facts for the future." (5 sentences)*
- **Question 6:** *Select a quotation from the book and explain why it is significant. (4 sentences)*
- **Question 7:** *Write a complete sentence to capture the main idea of this book. Then explain why this main idea is relevant universally. (6 sentences)*
- **Question 8:** *How many stars would you give this book (between 1-5)? Justify your answer. (4 sentences)*
- **BONUS QUESTION:** (for extra credit / your teacher's respect) *Does the author exhibit any biases? How does the author's language reveal this particular bias?*

Fiction Choice List

The Diary of a Part-Time Indian OR Reservation Blues OR Tonto & The Lone Ranger by Sherman Alexie
How The Garcia Girls Lost their Accents OR A Wedding in Haiti by Julia Alvarez
The Blind Assassin OR The Cat's Eye OR The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte OR Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
The Stranger by Albert Camus
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doer

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaleed Hoseni
The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Atonement by Ian McEwan
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor
Memory Keeper's Daughter by Jodi Picoult
Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
Swamplandia by Karen Russell
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Nonfiction Choice List

Current Events:

Five Days at Memorial by Sheri Fink
Detroit City is the Place to Be by Mark Binelli
Thank you for Your Service by David Finkel
Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make this Country Work by Jeanne Marie Laskas
The Long Walk: The Story of War and the Life that Follows by Brian Castner
Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman by Jon Krakauer

Digital:

Exploding the Phone: The Untold Story of Teenagers and Outlaws who Hacked Ma Bell by Phil Lapsley
Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker by Kevin Mitnick
Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter by Steven Johnson
Reality is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World by Jane McGonigal

Sports:

Collision Low Crossers: A Year Inside the TURbulent World of NFL Football by Nicholas Dawidoff
Muck City: Winning and Losing in Football's Forgotten Town by Bryan Mealer

Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen by Christopher McDougall

Over Time: My Life as a Sports Writer by Frank Deford

Popular Culture:

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

Rejuvenile: Kickball, Cartoons, Cupcakes and the Reinvention of the American Grownup by Christopher Nixon

The Know It All by A.J. Jacobs

Moby Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea by Donovan Hohn

History:

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the American Dustbowl by Timothy Egan

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand

Arc of Justice by Kevin Boyle

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Eric Larson

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir:

Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West by Dorothy Wickenden

Blue Nights by Joan Didion

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers

Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock by David Margolick

Miracle Boy Grows Up: How the Disability Rights Revolution Saved My Sanity by Ben Mattlin

A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey From the Inner City to the Ivy League by Ron Suskind

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Nickel And Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

Science:

The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature by David George Haskell

The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert

The Girls of Atomic City, the Untold Story of Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Annoying: The Science of What Bugs Us by Joe Palca & Flora Lichtman

That's Disgusting: Unraveling the Mysteries of Repulsion by Rachel Herz

Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach

Gulp: Adventures of the Alimentary Canal by Mary Roach

Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain by Oliver Sacks

Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art of Science and Remembering Everything by Joshua Foer

Food:

Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us by Michael Moss

Birds Eye: The Adventures of Curious Man by Mark Kurlansky

Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Ruined Our Most Alluring Fruit by Barry Estabrook

The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food by Jennifer B. Lee

Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

Travel:

The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World by Eric Weiner

My Kind of Place: Travel Stories from a Woman Who's Been Everywhere by Susan Orlean

Cross Country: Fifteen Years and 90,000 Miles on the Roads and Interstates of America by Robert Sullivan

The Ninth Annual New York Times Summer Reading Contest



Every year since [2010](#) we have invited teenagers around the world to add The New York Times to their summer reading lists, and, so far, over 30,000 have.

At a time when [breaking-news alerts](#) are as constant as [concerns about “fake news.”](#) teachers and students alike may feel that keeping up with a reliable source of information is more important than ever. We hope our 10-week contest can make that easy.

But we also hope students will realize that reading The Times is fun. As you’ll see in the guidelines below, literally anything published on NYTimes.com in 2018 is fair game. We don’t care if you choose a piece about [politics](#) or [polar bears](#), [baseball](#) or “[Black Panther](#),” [food](#), [fashion](#), [Fortnite](#) or [Flyball](#); we just care about why you chose it.

Here’s how it works:

- The contest runs from **June 15 to Aug. 24.**
- **Every Friday beginning June 15,** we will publish a post asking the same two questions: What interested you most in The Times this week? Why? You can always find that link in an update at the top of this page. It will also appear in [this column](#).
- **Anyone 13 to 19 years old from anywhere in the world can post an answer any week until Friday, Aug. 24,** and contestants can choose from any Times article, essay, video, interactive, podcast or photograph published in 2018, on any topic they like.
- Every Tuesday starting July 3 we will announce winners from a previous week and [publish their writing](#).
- To get an idea of the breadth of topics students have chosen in the past — from [refugees](#) and “[post-truth politics](#)” to [power napping](#) and [junk food](#) — you can read the work of our 2017 winners [here](#), and our 2010-2016 winners [here](#).

More questions? Here are some that have been frequently asked over the years.

Q. What kinds of responses are you looking for?

A. We don’t care what you choose or whether you loved or hated it; what we care about is what you have to say about why you picked it.

If you don’t believe us, scroll through our [2017 winners](#), or, via our old blog, view the work of [winners](#) from 2010 to 2016.

They have written on weighty topics like [gender](#), [race and identity](#), [space exploration](#) and [21st-century concentration camps](#), but they have also written on [Beyoncé](#), [Disney shows](#), [bagels](#), [running](#) and [Jon Stewart withdrawal](#).

Whatever the subject, you'll see that the best pieces year after year make both personal connections to the news and go beyond the personal to discuss the broader questions and ideas that the topic raises.

So whether you were moved by an [article](#), enlightened by an [essay](#), bowled over by a [photo](#), irked by an [editorial](#) or inspired by a [video](#), find something in The Times that genuinely interests you and tell us why, as honestly and originally as you can.

Q. What are the rules?

A. We will post the same questions every Friday, starting June 15. Each week we will ask, "What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?" That is where you should post your picks (and reasons) any time until the next Friday. Then we will close that post to comments and open a new one with the same questions. That means that students can write in on any day until Friday, Aug. 24, at 7 a.m. Eastern when the contest ends.

As soon as the contest starts, we will keep an up-to-date link to that week's question at the top of this page.

— You can choose from anything published in the print paper or on [NYTimes.com](#) in 2018, including [videos](#), [graphics](#), [slide shows](#) and [podcasts](#).

— Feel free to participate every week, but we allow only *one* submission per person per week.

— The contest is open to *teenagers only* — anyone from 13 to 19 years old — from anywhere in the world.

— Our commenting system allows responses up to 1,500 characters, which is somewhere between 250 and 300 words.

— Make sure to provide us with the full URL or headline (for example, "Review: 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' Raises the Bar for Broadway Magic" or

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/22/theater/review-harry-potter-and-the-cursed-child-raises-the-bar-for-broadway-magic.html>).

Q. Who will be judging my work?

A. The Learning Network staff, plus a team of as-yet-to-be-named New York Times journalists.

Q. How do I prove to my teacher that I participated?

A. When you comment, make sure to check the box that asks if you would like to be emailed when your comment is published.

If you do so, the system will send you a link to your comment, which you can use to show your teacher, your parents, your friends or anyone else you'd like to impress.

Please note that you will not get an email until the comment has been approved, which may take up to 48 hours over weekends.