

AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading 2017

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:
 - Children who do not read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement.
 - Reading loss is cumulative. Students who do not read during the summer could be three years below grade level by fifth grade simply from not reading during the summer. This cumulative loss makes it very difficult to close the achievement gap that exists during the school year alone.
 - Two thirds of the 9th grade achievement gap can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities as early as elementary school.
 - Summer reading loss has been identified as one of the three major obstacles to get students to reading proficiency.

- ★ 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:

Over summer break, you are required to read (and/or listen to!) two texts from our suggested reading list. If you have a different text that you would like to read, select that text, by all means! Just email me the title with a reason why (example reasons: my friend suggested it, we got it at the bookstore, it was already at my house, I really wanted to read it , etc...).

*Note: Since AP Language & Composition is a class rooted in non-fiction, I strongly suggest that you choose **two non-fiction titles**. However, the choice is yours!

In addition to this reading, you will be required to complete a short reading quiz for each of these texts and email them to me by midnight on July 1st (text #1) and August 10th (text #2). The reading quizzes are located below. My email is kwashburn@thefsi.us.

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

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaleed Hoseni
Atonement by Ian McEwan
Bastard Out of Carolina by Dorothy Allison
Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier
Fight Club by Chuck Palahniuk
How The Garcia Girls Lost their Accents OR *A Wedding in Haiti* by Julia Alvarez
In the Lake of the Woods OR *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Memory Keeper's Daughter by Jodi Picoult
Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay
Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
Swamplandia by Karen Russell
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
The Blind Assassin OR *The Cat's Eye* OR *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
The Diary of a Part-Time Indian OR *Reservation Blues* OR *Tonto & The Lone Ranger* by Sherman Alexie
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
The Tortilla Curtain by T. C Boyle
Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

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 Sullican

