

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading List 2017-18

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is your introduction to an author's rhetoric-the art of writing effectively, eloquently, and persuasively. Many selections we will read this school year will be non-fiction. Your summer reading will focus on the rhetoric of non-fiction authors and the way in which they craft their writing.

Each of these selections addresses at least one of the concepts, which are important to our class. These assignments are important and are applicable throughout the course. A decision not to read or not to "annotate" should be considered a conscious decision to do poorly in the class. I DON'T LIKE TO READ IS NOT AN EXCUSE IN AP ENGLISH.

Everyone must read:

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson – Intertwines the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass – Douglass' own account of his journey from a slave to one of America's great statesmen, writers, and orators

Students may then choose to read one of the following memoirs:

Beautiful Boy by David Sheff – A father's journey through his son's addiction

A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer – This book chronicles one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls – A girl recounts her childhood with parents who chose to live life by their own rules, even if it meant being homeless.

❖ Note – You are reading a total of three books, two required books and one choice book.

Testing Tips:

-The assessments will begin the third day of class. Be Prepared.

-The tests over the novels will be largely objective plot line questions and character assessment. Be prepared for alternate means of assessment as well such as writing and discussion through Socratic seminar. Those who are well read and reviewed will have no problem, regardless of the mode of assessment.

-By all means utilize academic aids such as Cliff's Notes and Sparknotes. Certainly, by this point in your education, you know they are aids and not replacements for reading the works.

Enjoy your summer!

How to annotate effectively:

1. Yellow Highlighter

A yellow highlighter allows you to mark exactly what you are interested in. Equally important, the yellow line emphasizes without interfering. Before highlighters, I drew lines under important spots in texts, but underlining is laborious and often distracting. Highlighters in blue and pink and fluorescent colors are even more distracting. The idea is to see the important text more clearly, not give your eyes a psychedelic exercise.

While you read, highlight whatever seems to be key information. At first, you will probably highlight too little or too much; with experience, you will choose more effectively which material to highlight.

2. Pencil or Pen

You need to interact with the text while you're reading. Studies have proven that marking up a text while reading accounts for a higher level of understanding and recall of a piece.

3. Your Text

Inside the front cover of your book, keep an orderly, legible list of "key information" with page references. Key information in a novel might include themes; passages that relate to the book's title; characters' names; salient quotes; important scenes, passages, and chapters; and maybe key definitions or vocabulary. Remember that key information will vary according to genre and the reader's purpose, so make your own good plan.

More Thoughts on Close Reading: What should you annotate? Again, the possibilities are limitless. Keep in mind the reasons we annotate. Your annotations must include comments. Remember that the purpose is to indicate evidence of thinking.

- Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- Note if you experience an epiphany.
- Note anything you would like to discuss in class or do not understand.
- Note how the author uses language.
 - ✓ effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - ✓ point of view / effect
 - ✓ repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
 - ✓ narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
 - ✓ irony
 - ✓ contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
 - ✓ allusions
 - ✓ any other figure of speech or literary device
 - ✓ reliability of narrator
 - ✓ motifs or cluster ideas
 - ✓ tone / mood
 - ✓ imagery
 - ✓ themes
 - ✓ setting / historical period
 - ✓ symbols