

2019 AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Project

Dear Incoming Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Students and Parents,

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! We look forward to meeting all of you next year. In order to enrich your learning experiences, we have prepared a curriculum that is both challenging and engaging.

To maintain alignment with the rigor of a College Board course and in preparation for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition exam you will take in May, we will study novels, informational text, short stories, and literary nonfiction with intensive reading, writing and analysis skills. You will be expected to work at a much deeper level, and in order to be able to discuss, debate, hypothesize, and make connections to other literary works and other disciplines in class, you will be expected to complete significant reading and prep work at home.

This summer you will have the opportunity to select and read one of the novels from our district list. Included in this letter are your summer reading directions. If after reading the directions you have further questions, please feel free to call or email the campus or district contact.

You will turn in your summer reading project on August 28, 2019 to your AP English Language and Composition teacher. Please allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read the novel and complete the assignment. This will be your first major grade of the nine weeks. In addition, you can expect an assignment or multiple assignments over your summer reading book during the first nine weeks of class as you and your teacher make connections between the literary elements and author's craft in your chosen text and the other texts being read. In order to make sure that you are well-prepared, make sure that your project has been completed on or before Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

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All summer reading projects for Pre-AP or AP English are available on the campus and district websites.

AP Summer Reading Book Options

Below are the approved novel choices for AP English Language and Composition courses. Please select one of the following texts for your summer reading project.

Black Elk Speaks by John G. Neihardt and Vine Deloria

Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup by Solomon Northup

Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America by Allen C. Guelzo

The Essential Writings of Mahatma Gandhi by Mahatma Gandhi and Raghavan Iyer

We Band of Angels by Elizabeth M. Norman

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Devil's Highway by Luis Alberto Urrea

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Band of Brothers by Stephen E. Ambrose

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Project

Over your summer break, you will complete a dialectical journal based upon the novel that you have selected. Your dialectical journal should either be turned in written in ink, typed, or submitted electronically on or before **August 28, 2019**. The dialectical journal will be a **major grade** for the first six weeks. In addition, there will be **at least one other major grade** based on a writing assignment using the novel.

Annotations: While reading the selected novel, students are highly encouraged (if possible) to highlight and make notes in the margins of the text.

What kinds of things could you annotate?

- words and phrases that stand out to you
- important scenes or key sections of dialogue
- character descriptions, motivations, and flaws
- key decisions characters make
- sections that are confusing for you
- questions that pop into your head as you are reading
- inferences you make while reading
- connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows
- connections you make to your personal life or to the lives of others
- symbols, themes, or topics
- literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used
- figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

Directions for Dialectical Journal:

While reading the novel, students are expected to create at least 10 journal entries that include quotations or excerpts from the text and commentary for each. These quotations or excerpts should come from the beginning, middle, and end of the story. The commentary for each quotation or excerpt should explain and comment on the meaning or importance and not merely paraphrase or summarize the text. Below are several ideas for a dialectical journal entry.

Form, Structure, and Plot: What is happening? Choose quotations/excerpts on the chronology of the plot: opening situation, complicating incident(s), main events in the rising action, climax, outcome. How much time is covered? If the action is framed as a flashback, explain. Choose quotations/excerpts involved in forms, such as dream sequences, stream of consciousness narrative, parallel events, significant patterns of foreshadowing, or anything else interesting, along with commentary explaining why this plot or structural device is important.

Character: Choose quotations/excerpts about central characters, such as personality, function in the novel, motivations, or flaws.

Setting: Choose quotations/excerpts that show where (continent, region, state, house, room) and when (year, month, time of day) the novel occurs. Choose quotations/excerpts that show how the setting affects the plot or ideas of the novel. What mood is created by the setting?

Themes: Choose quotations/excerpts that identify major themes in the novel. What moral and ethical questions are being explored in the novel, and how are they resolved? What is the author saying about life, about mankind, or about nature? What is the big lesson that we are to learn?

Imagery: Choose quotations/excerpts that appeal to one or more of the five senses. What is the effect? Look also for recurring images or motifs (light/darkness, colors, clothing, odors, sounds, etc.). How are these images or motifs used?

Symbolism: Choose quotations/excerpts that use an image to suggest complex or multiple meanings. When something is used metaphorically, like a conch shell to represent authority, it becomes a symbol. Choose quotations/excerpts in the novel that use these symbols. What is the effect of the symbol? Are there patterns? Do these symbols advance one or more themes?

Figurative Language: Choose quotations/excerpts to identify effective examples of these devices: metaphors, similes, personification, and/or allusion. An allusion is a reference to someone or something known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science or some other branch of culture.

Dialectical Journal Entry Example:

Text Evidence:	Commentary
<p>“The graveyard is a mass of wreckage. Coffins and corpses lie strewn about. They have been killed once again; but each of them that was flung up saved one of us.” Chapter 4, page 31</p> <p><i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> by Erich Maria Remarque</p>	<p>The horror of war is so complete, not even the dead are spared, not even the buried are safe from the bombs. The gruesomeness of the scene reinforces the inhumanity of each side towards the other. Ironically, Paul and his comrades escape the shells by jumping into the emptied graves, and, therefore, are saved by the dead.</p>
<p>“You’re nasty, Mr. Montag, you’re nasty.” Page 101</p> <p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury</p>	<p>By repeating “you’re nasty,” at the beginning and end of the sentence, it creates emphasis on the view of the speaker, Mrs. Bowles, towards Montag. Mrs. Bowles represents the majority of the people in their society, and her reaction towards Montag reflects how society feels about the truth and people who care about finding the truth.</p>

Helpful Suggestions:

- Don’t wait until the week before school starts to begin reading your novel and completing your dialectical journal. Unexpected events may occur that could make it difficult for you to complete these tasks on time.
- Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters that you are going to read per week, and stick with it.
- Annotate the text and find your quotations/excerpts as you are reading. Do not wait until you have completed the novel because it may become difficult to remember exactly why you believed that part of the text to be so important or noteworthy.