

AP English Language and composition
2024-2025 Summer reading assignment
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Purpose: The purpose of summer reading assignment is complex:

- ★ To help build confidence and competence as readers of complex texts
- ★ To give you, when you enter the class in the fall, an immediate basis for discussion of nonfiction and the terms used in rhetorical analysis
- ★ To set up a basis for comparison with other works we will read during the year
- ★ To provide you with the beginnings of a repertoire of works you can write about on the AP Lang exam next spring

If you are willing and able to purchase your own copy of the book, I highly suggest you do so for annotations as you read as well as having the book to refer back to later in the year. If not, you can find these works in the local library or online in some cases. **Some of the works may contain somewhat mature subject matter. Feel free to make another choice if this makes you uncomfortable.** However, please be advised that some of the works we read in class may deal with mature content since this class is set up much like a college English course.

Assignment #1

The Vicious Terms

Before you begin any of the reading for this summer, create a quizlet or set of notecards (preferred) that define the attached terms. Don't forget examples. You will use these terms to complete your dialectical journals over your chosen text. There will be a terms test during the first week of school.

ALLUSION, ANADIPLOSIS, ANALOGY, ANAPHORA, ANECDOTE, ANTIMETABOLE, ANTITHESIS, APOSTROPHE, APPOSITIVE, ASSONANCE, ASYNDETON, CHIASMUS, CONDUPLICATIO, DIACOPE, DIDACTIC, ENUMERATIO, EPANALEPSIS, EPISTROPHE, EPITHET, EPIZEUXIS, EPONYM, EUPHEMISM, HYPERBOLE, HYPOPHORA, IDIOM, INVECTIVE, JUXTAPOSITION, LITOTES, METONYMY, PARADOX, PARALLELISM, POLYSYNDETON, RHETORICAL APPEALS (ETHOS, PATHOS, LOGOS), RHETORICAL QUESTION, SATIRE, SYNECDOCHE, SYNESTHESIA, ZEUGMA

SENTENCE STRUCTURE: BALANCED SENTENCE, COMPOUND SENTENCE, COMPLEX SENTENCE, CUMULATIVE SENTENCE, PERIODIC SENTENCE, SIMPLE SENTENCE, DECLARATIVE SENTENCE, INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE, IMPERATIVE SENTENCE

Assignment #2

The Fiendish Literature

Your next assignment is to read one book from the reading list found at the end of these instructions. These works are of "recognized Literary Merit" and come from the College Board suggested reading list. The purpose of this assignment is to add to your reading experiences and to develop your critical thinking skills. Therefore, do not choose a book on this list that you have already read! In

preparation for the AP Language exam, you will need to be familiar with a wide range of nonfiction. The more you read books of literary merit, the more prepared you will be. You may also want to visit the College Board website to review sample questions, additional preparation suggestions, and lists of literary works that often appear on the exams.

You will be assessed during the first week of school on the novel you have read for this assignment using an AP exam prompt.

Note: you must have access to the books for at least the first two weeks of school.

“Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work.”

-Umberto Eco

Some works contain mature content and/or language. If this is an issue for you or your guardians, please choose another novel. A quick internet search should alert you to any mature content.

Assignment #3

The Dreaded Dialecticals

After defining your terms and while reading your chosen text, you will complete 5 dialectical journals. Each journal will contain a different term. Follow the guide below for a model of a dialectical journal.

Term or device from list:	6 point thesis: In (1) title, (2) the author employs or examines adjective + device to (4) strong and specific verb (5) central topic, ultimately revealing that (6) theme (author’s deep purpose for including this device).
Quote and citation (author page#).	Write a detailed paragraph describing how the author uses the device to create a theme or to explain his/her purpose. You will want to set your paragraph up to continue directly after the thesis statement above. You’ll want to do/answer the following in your paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Embed the piece of the quote smoothly and creatively to make your argument● Discuss HOW the quote is the term or device you chose● Discuss WHY the author chose this term and how it adds to the argument● Tie the paragraph back to the thesis in the box above NOTE: You won’t have the same theme for each dialectical

DO YOUR OWN INTERPRETIVE WORK! Sites such as Sparknotes are NOT ACCEPTABLE sources of academic literary analysis, especially at the AP level. ***plagiarism: Any student found to have used another person’s ideas or words including classmates or online resources will receive a zero for the assignment as well as a parent conference. These are the ways of the literary coward!!

Book List

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life

Anne Lamott

Think you've got a book inside of you? Lamott isn't afraid to help you let it out. She'll help you find your passion and your voice, beginning from the first really crummy draft to the peculiar letdown of publication. Readers will be drawn in by Lamott's witty take on the reality of a writer's life, which has little to do with literary parties and a lot to do with jealousy, writer's block, and going for broke with each paragraph.

Catch Me If You Can

Frank W. Abagnale

Former con man Frank Abagnale, an authority on financial foul play, tells stories of the adventures he had while living the high life as a criminal.

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors

Doug Stanton

Stanton tells the story of the USS Indianapolis, a battle cruiser torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine shortly after delivering parts of the atom bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima, and discusses the struggles of sailors who survived the blast to stay alive in the sea for nearly five days before help arrived.

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

Stephen King

King reflects on how his writing has helped him through difficult times and describes various aspects of the art of writing.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books

Azar Nafisi

Nafisi describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature, explaining the influence of *Lolita*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and other works on their lives and goals.

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

Laura Hillenbrand

A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil

Deborah Rodriguez

Soon after the fall of the Taliban, Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian aid group. Surrounded by people whose skills—doctors, nurses, and therapists—seemed eminently more practical than her own, a hairdresser from Michigan, she despaired of being of any real use. Yet she found she had a gift for befriending Afghans, and once her profession became known, she was eagerly sought out by Westerners desperate for a good haircut.

Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

Michael Pollan

An ecological and anthropological study of eating offers insight into food consumption in the twenty-first century, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of everyday consumers to protect their health and the environment.

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything

Steven D. Levitt

The authors explore the economics of real-world issues often viewed as insignificant, such as the extent to which the Roe v. Wade decision affected violent crime, and examine hidden incentives behind all sorts of human behavior.

In Cold Blood

Truman Capote

On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, KS, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held at close range. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. Capote reconstructs the murder and investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers while generating mesmerizing suspense and astonishing empathy.

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

Erik Larson

Larson tells the parallel stories of Daniel Burnham, the main architect of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and serial killer Henry H. Holmes, discussing the challenges Burnham faced in creating the hugely successful White City and looking at how Holmes used the opportunities afforded by the fair to lure victims to their death.

Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream

H.G. Bissinger

Bissinger follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, TX, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.