

AP English Language and Composition
2019-2020 Summer Reading Assignment

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Rationale:

The purpose of summer reading assignment is to prepare you for reading nonfiction literature analytically and to focus on rhetorical strategies nonfiction writers use to inform, entertain, and persuade their audiences. These are the skills that are most crucial to your success in the AP English Language and Composition course and on the AP Exam in May.

Reading Assignment:

Read two of the books from the list below. These are contemporary nonfiction works written by women that are indicative of the type and level of reading you will find on the AP English Language and Composition Exam.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (ISBN: 9780743247542)

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston (ISBN: 9780679721888)

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (ISBN: 9781400052189)

Educated by Tara Westover (ISBN: 9780399590504)

Writing Assignment:

During the first week of school, you will write an in class essay asking you to compare the two books you read. This will count as a major grade for the 1st Quarter. The attached book review sheet is meant to help you prepare for that assignment by focusing your reading on important aspects common to nonfiction literature. It will not be graded, but if you complete it, you will be able to use it when writing the essay.

Nonfiction Literature Review Sheet

Answer the following questions for the two books you read. Try to think of similarities and differences between the two works.

Titles and Authors of Books Read:

What social messages are the writers trying to convey to their audiences? (Think about how their lives relate to important social issues and what position they might be trying to persuade you to adopt.)

What is the role of setting in both works? Does it help the writer emphasize certain aspects of their message or characters? Does the writer use setting to comment on certain aspects of American culture?

How do the writers help elicit sympathy for the main characters? Why is this important for the stories they are telling?

Are there any characters the writers choose to villainize? In what ways do they create distance and disconnection with these characters, and why do they do so?

Think of a scene from each book where something dramatic or traumatic occurs. How do the writers create tension in these scenes?

Who do think is the intended audience for both works? How does the writer accommodate and relate to this audience?

What is the point-of-view in each work? How does the point-of-view influence the story and the way you interpreted and related to it?