

Required Summer Reading for English 3 AP Language **Ferguson/Petree/Townley**

Stephen King, *On Writing*

Malcolm Gladwell, *The Outliers*

Welcome to Junior English! Prior to the Junior Advanced Placement English course, you will complete 2 required readings. Please read the works and take notes as you read; do not accept an Internet site summary or "analysis" as a substitute. Please bring both selections the first week of class. You will take an objective test over the required works and write one timed in-class essay as well.

***Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell debuted in 2008 on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Through a series of case studies, Gladwell insists that we have all too easily bought into the myth that successful people are self-made; instead, he says they “are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot.” Gladwell defines an outlier as a person out of the ordinary “who doesn't fit into our normal understanding of achievement.” According to Gladwell, great men and women are beneficiaries of specialization, collaboration, time, place, and culture. An outlier's recipe for success is the synthesis of opportunity and time on task. He includes case studies to support his thesis: for example, why the majority of Canadian ice hockey players are born in the first few months of the calendar year and how Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates achieved his extreme wealth. Throughout the publication, Gladwell repeatedly mentions the "10,000-Hour Rule,” claiming that the key to achieving world-class expertise in any skill, is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing the correct way, for a total of around 10,000 hours (Little, Brown).**

Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* has much to say about writing, about perseverance, and about the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. The book is partially a memoir and partially a book on the elements of style, including a first draft and revision of one of his books, and ends with a booklist on the best books he has read in recent years. He even gives his readers a writing exercise, with an invitation to send the results to him. This book has been a favorite of juniors for several years, so enjoy!

Used copies of the book are on sale (Amazon) for a minimal price.