

AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION | 2021-22

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition!

Reading is life changing. Reading has the ability to change your perspective. Reading causes you to think. Reading provides a window into someone's journey or a large portion of their life's work.

For your summer reading assignment, you will read two texts. For me personally, there are nonfiction books that have been life-changing for me. I'm not exaggerating. Take your time to choose wisely. If you start reading a book that doesn't grab you a few chapters in, pick a different one. There are too many books out there.

Additionally, I challenge you to read someone's story or perspective that may be different than yours. Yes, you are being required to read for my class, but take this opportunity to actually learn from someone else. What if--a book you read for my class--changes your life? It could happen.

While re-reading a text has its place, please do not re-read a book that you have already read. There are too many wonderful books out there!

I look forward to seeing you in August!

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Read two nonfiction books.

- There is not a list of required books from which to choose, but if you would like some ideas, here are some:
 - [Goodreads.com list of nonfiction books](#).
- If you are not a big reader, there are a lot of options for you on the above list. One of my favorites is *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell (in fact, it used to be a required summer read for this class.)
- There is a range of maturity and content on the provided link, so make this choice as a family and email me with any questions. *If there is another text you are interested in reading, please contact [me](#) for approval. I will more than likely say yes. Again, this is just a list to pull from--you may read any nonfiction book of your choice with my approval.*

Instructions:

1. **Simply read** your two books (I'm giving you a lot of freedom, so please actually read the texts. It's incredible exercise for your brain).
2. You will be asked to write a paper about and present your analysis of your books once school starts, but over the summer, please just enjoy reading your book.
3. If you would like to prepare for your paper as you read this summer, you can annotate as you read, but this is not a requirement. Note what strategies the author uses to get his/her point across effectively.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Reading is exercise for your brain. Please read the text closely and to the best of your ability.
2. Please only use study guides such as LitCharts or SparkNotes as a guide **for clarification** rather than a replacement for the actual book itself. If you are struggling with your book, my recommendation is to read a chapter summary and then read the actual chapter. I would rather have a less impressive piece of writing than have someone who has stolen other people's ideas/thoughts/words.
3. You may listen to an audiobook version of the text as long as you are following along with the written/printed version as well.
4. There are fantastic movie versions of these novels; however, they are not a replacement for the text. I encourage you to watch the movie after reading the text.
5. Bring your copies of each text to school on the first day.