

## Shawnee Mission West Language Arts 2021 *AP Language and Composition Summer Reading*

---

AP Language and Composition students read one selection during the summer – a nonfiction choice from the list below. Although we may begin our study of the summer reading text the first week of school, no summative assessments will occur before the indicated date.

**One nonfiction choice book** from the list below is due **Friday, August 27, 2021**.

- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande
- *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* by Sebastian Junger
- *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President* by Candice Millard
- *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah
- *Canyon Dreams: A Basketball Season on the Navajo Nation* by Michael Powell

HELPFUL HINTS: To ensure comprehension and recall, keep hand-written notes in any method that you choose. These notes are entirely for your personal use and reflection. Below are some suggestions to help you connect with your book and analyze how the author achieves his or her purpose.

- Consider the author's purpose as you read. What does the author want his or her audience to understand or do? How does the author work to achieve this goal throughout the book? What specific stylistic choices, explanations, examples, etc., make the author's argument particularly effective?
- Purchase a copy and annotate it, or if you choose a library copy or electronic copy, create a double-entry journal as you read. In either case, consider the questions listed in the bullet point above.
- Take notes about important actions and occurrences. Divide your lists according to the main divisions in the book. Think about how each of these divisions or sections helps the author achieve his overall purpose.
- Keep a log of questions that arise as you read.
- Pay attention to significant shifts in the book. What makes these shifts significant?
- Keep track of quotes that you think are important or meaningful.

ASSESSMENT: Once school starts and we have discussed the books, students should expect both written and objective assessments.

PLEASE NOTE: You are not required to purchase this book, but please have a copy for class discussion. You might consider a public library copy or electronic text if you choose not to purchase one. I have several copies in my classroom to lend if needed. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Mrs. Blakemore  
[amyblakemore@smsd.org](mailto:amyblakemore@smsd.org)