

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment 2021

Dale Dilworth, Julia Hakstian, Julie Veltman

Rationale:

In order to be successful in AP English Language, it is important to expand your general knowledge on a wide range of topics including global issues, historical events, pop-culture, developments in science, art and architecture, literature, etc. Reading works of non-fiction can be an excellent step towards better understanding the world in which we live.

Assignment:

1. Read descriptions of the following five books. Choose ONE to read in full before next school year:

- *Devil in the White City* by Eric Larsen
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson
- *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman
- *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction* by David Sheff

2. Identify a central theme, problem, or current issue that emerges from the book.

3. After reading the book, write a 1-2 page letter to your teacher in which you address the following questions. Please write in narrative form rather than a list of numbered questions. You will turn this in during the third class of the year.

- a. Why did you choose this book from the list?
- b. What are your NEW understandings or insights about the theme? How are you thinking about this problem or issue differently than you were before? What questions came up for you while reading this book? What would you like to learn more about after reading this book?
- c. Would you recommend this book be on next year's summer reading list? Why or why not?
- d. What are your academic goals for AP English Language and Composition?
- e. Is there anything you would like me to know about you that it would be helpful for me to know right away that might help me better understand and support you as a student?
- f. Anything else you want to share or comment on as we head into another school year?

*Please note that Sparknotes, Cliffsnotes, or similar reading guides are not permitted in this class, including for summer reading. If you rely on these as a way to avoid reading complete texts, AP English may not be the class for you.