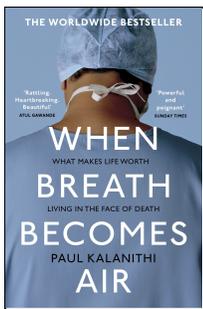


2022 English Summer Reading Guide:
AP Language & Composition

Please Note: The following work is required for *all* students enrolled in this course, including transfer students and students who change their schedule over the summer.

Instructions:

The book: Choose **ONE** of the memoirs listed below. Obtain a **physical copy** of the book that you will bring to class. You will not be able to use an ebook in class. Read your chosen book carefully and thoughtfully before the first day of school. **Follow the guidance on the next page for reading carefully and tracking your thinking.** Besides reading and annotating thoughtfully, there is no separate assignment to complete. Students can see this book list on our DePaul Prep Goodreads group [here](#), using their DePaul Prep email address.

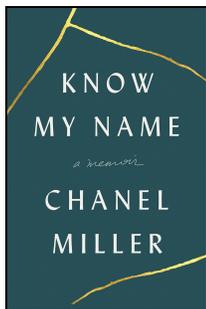


[When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi](#)

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own

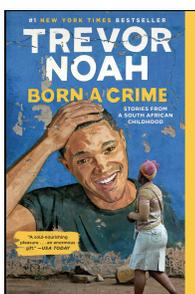


mortality.



[Know My Name by Chanel Miller](#)

She was known to the world as Emily Doe when she stunned millions with a letter. Brock Turner had been sentenced to just six months in county jail after he was found sexually assaulting her on Stanford's campus. Her victim impact statement was posted on BuzzFeed, where it instantly went viral--viewed by eleven million people within four days, it was translated globally and read on the floor of Congress; it inspired changes in California law and the recall of the judge in the case. Thousands wrote to say that she had given them the courage to share their own experiences of assault for the first time. Now she reclaims her identity to tell her story of trauma, transcendence, and the power of words. It was the perfect case, in many ways--there were eyewitnesses, Turner ran away, physical evidence was immediately secured. But her struggles with isolation and shame during the aftermath and the trial reveal the oppression victims face in even the best-case scenarios.

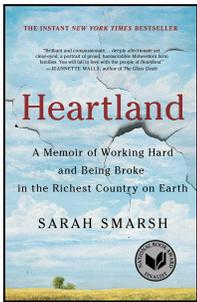


[Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah](#)

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by



the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.



[Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh](#)



Sarah Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working class Americans living in the heartland. During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood, but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgment, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country.

Reading carefully and tracking your thinking: While reading, use the questions below to guide what you notice and track. Annotate in your book so you can find your thoughts quickly when you write about the book in class.

- How does the author structure their book? What are the main parts, and how do the parts relate to one another and to the whole? Why might the author structure their book this way?
- What big ideas does the author focus on throughout their book? Are there any ideas the author especially emphasizes or returns to many times? Why might the author emphasize these ideas?
- What life events does the author especially emphasize? Why might they choose these to tell their story and not others?
- What does the author's perspective seem to be, based on how they recount their life? What are they saying by telling their story in this way?
- Who does the author seem to be addressing in this book? What type of person might resonate the most with the story? Does the author seem to be presenting a lesson or message to a specific audience?
- Which passages in the book are especially striking, memorable, moving, or thought-provoking?
- Do you notice any patterns or contrasts throughout the book?
- Look up unfamiliar words as you read and define them in the margins of the book. Do NOT skip over unknown words or terms.

Prepare for in-class writing: You will need to write about your chosen book on demand during class on one of the first days of school. You will be able to use your physical book and annotations for this but no other resources. Make sure you have carefully and thoughtfully read your book and that your annotations are helpful to you.

NEED HELP?

If you are a transfer student or you are any student with a question you can't figure out yourself, email Mrs. Galvez (lgalvez@depaulprep.org) or the English teacher listed on your schedule.