

## 2023 AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

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Welcome to the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition class! To help you prepare for our rigorous and stimulating course in the fall, I've prepared a literary feast for you. First, read this entire summer reading assignment so you know what to look for as you read. Take notes as you read your books, thoroughly enough to serve in August as a review for a test and enable you to discuss the books readily. You do have **four** books to read and respond to and a letter to write all by the start of school. Enjoy!

1. Read the following non-fiction books and complete a **Non-Fiction Data Sheet** (see below) for each book.

- Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*
- Gladwell, Malcolm. *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*
- Hari, Johann. *Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again*
- Noah, Trevor. *Born a Crime*

2. Why AP Lang? Write a one page letter to Mrs. Dunaway; tell me the reasons that you chose to take AP English Language and Composition. Do not start off by writing, "I chose to take this class because..." No! You are now AP students and I expect thoughtful, original, and cogent responses to this topic. It must be typed and brought to class the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. Remember that this letter will be my first impression of you as a writer, as a thinker, and as a student!

3. Purchase the following required books for use during the 2023-2024 school year:

- [\*The Crucible\* by Arthur Miller](#) (available on Amazon)
- [\*The Great Gatsby\* by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#) (available on Amazon)

**AP English Language and Composition**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nonfiction Data Sheets**

<p><b>Title:</b> <b>Author:</b> <b>Date of Publication:</b> <b>Genre:</b></p>	<p><b>Author Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Who is the author?</li><li>· What are the author's qualifications for writing on the subject?</li><li>· Is the author an authority in the subject area? How does the author present the subject and his/her expertise?</li><li>· Do the acknowledgements and bibliography indicate thoughtful research? (cite your sources)</li></ul>
<p><b>Information about the person or subject's place in history:</b> (Why is this person or subject worthy of a book?)</p>	

**Quotations: (Your choices should be SIGNIFICANT to and REPRESENTATIVE of the book and your explanation should include discussion of this significance. Include page numbers and put your choices in order.)**

Quotation	Device and Explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

## WRITING STYLE

Discuss the author's style. Include the following as part of your discussion: Is the language level appropriate? Is there clarity to the style of writing? Is the material fairly easy to follow and understand? Does the author avoid stereotypes and generalizations? Does the author avoid didactic and condescending language? You must discuss the author's syntax as well as his/her use of tone, diction, and form (how does he/she develop the story/argument).

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**Significance of the introduction:**

**Significance of the ending/closing:**

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### **Format of the Work**

Does the author use the typical chronological approach in organizing the writing or a different pattern? Does the layout of the material contribute to a natural flow of information? How does the organization of the writing contribute to the reader's ability to understand it? Is the pattern easy to follow? Discuss the book cover—Appropriate? Significance?

### **Possible Themes**

Explain the author's purpose in telling this story. Why is he/she telling it? Is there some greater motive? What is it? Additionally, what are you supposed to get out of this work? What are the overall themes developed in this work? (Use quotations to support your themes. Themes should be written as "messages" in sentence form.)