

May 2023

TO: Students entering AP English 11: Language and Composition

RE: Summer Reading

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition focuses on prose writing, especially non-imaginative prose. Our class throughout the year will also examine American Literature. Study of our nation's literature will teach you much about our American heritage that a study of history alone does not reveal. This summer's reading list is designed to introduce you to some masters of the prose style as well as to some of the thematic issues the class will address.

For each piece that you read you are to write a 2 ½ - 3 page (double spaced, 1 inch margins, Times 12 point font, parenthetically cited in MLA format) analysis of the work that is supported by quotations from the text. The primary source for the supportive detail should be the text and not secondary source commentary. If resources other than the text are used, be sure that they too are cited in the MLA style. Please note that you are **NOT** required to use secondary sources. All papers should have a Works Cited page even if the only text cited is the novel. (Note: avoid sources such as Schmoop and Spark Notes, etc.) Your analysis must address two of these three thematic concerns for each text:

- (1) What constitutes a meaningful life or existence?
- (2) How do individuals express themselves and affect others?
- (3) What role does the environment, both physical and societal, play in shaping individuals?

Your required pieces of literature are *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, and *Fools Crow* by James Welch.

Further suggestions: Avoid procrastination and do not attempt to complete this assignment the week before school begins. I will collect hard copies of these two essays on the first day of class, and they will provide the first opportunity to evaluate your writing skills. Your essays must also be submitted electronically through Canvas and they will be run through both Turnitin.com and an AI plagiarism detector. You will receive instructions on the first day of school for the electronic submission. Any essays turned in late will receive a late penalty of 30%. I am including a copy of the rubric that I will use to evaluate your work.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and hope that you enjoy your summer.

Sincerely

Michelle Barron
English Department Chair

AP Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

Basic Requirements: _____ meets length requirement of 2 ½ - 3 pages
_____ cites the primary text
_____ answers at least two of the following questions: what constitutes a meaningful life or existence; how individuals express themselves and affect others; how physical and social environment shapes individuals

6 (100% = 30 pts)

- meets all basic requirements and is excellent in overall quality
- contains successfully introduced, integrated, and documented quotations
- deals with the two themes fully and in an original manner
- pieces demonstrate the writer's strong voice and a willingness to take risks
- use of language is sophisticated and few if any mechanical flaws occur

5 (93% = 28 pts)

- meets all basic requirements and is above average in overall quality
- contains successfully introduced, integrated, and documented quotations
- deals with the two themes fully, but less insightfully than a 6
- is organized, focused, and perceptive
- exercises a genuine voice

4 (85% = 25.5 pts)

- meets all basic requirements and is slightly above average in overall quality
- quality may be less consistent and one theme may be less fully developed
- there are more strengths than weaknesses
- contains some quotations, but they are less successfully used
- mechanics may be inconsistent

3 (75% = 22.5 pts)

- one basic requirement may not be met / piece are slightly below average in overall quality
- one or both of the themes is less fully developed
- may only write on one of the themes
- may be mechanically competent but insufficiently developed
- may engage in more plot summary than in actual analysis
- more mechanical problems exist
- quotations are either used sparingly or not at all

2 (68% = 20. pts)

- does not fulfill the basic requirements and is below average in overall quality
- piece may be short or incomplete
- mechanical errors are distracting
- writing lacks depth of middle-range pieces
- transitions and conclusions may be abrupt
- quotations are not used for support

1 (60% = 18 pts)

- does not fulfill the basic requirements and is clearly below average in overall quality
- there are major weaknesses and few if any strengths
- a 1 lacks the redeeming qualities of a 2

X (0% = 0 pts)

- is not turned in and cannot be assessed