

Shawnee Mission West Language Arts 2023 **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.

Read one nonfiction choice book from the list below by **Monday, August 28, 2023**.

- *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown
- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande
- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann
- *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant
- *Blue Highways: A Journey Into America* by William Least Heat-Moon
- *We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story* by Simu Liu
- *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

READING TIPS: To improve comprehension and recall, keep hand-written notes in any method that you choose. These notes are for your personal use and reflection. Below are some suggestions to help you engage with your book and analyze how the author conveys his or her message. Cite page numbers as you take notes (or if you've purchased a copy, take notes in your book as you read), so you can use your notes for future writing assignments or test review.

- Note the author's message and purpose as you read: what does the author want his or her audience to understand and do?
 - How does the author work to achieve these goals throughout the book? What specific stylistic choices, explanations, examples, etc., make the author's argument particularly effective? Cite page numbers as you note these choices.
- Consider the significance of the book's title. How does the title's significance become apparent throughout the book?
- 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 or her overall purpose.
- Pay attention to significant shifts in the book. What makes these shifts significant?
- Keep track of quotes that you think are important or meaningful. Cite page numbers in your notes.
- Keep a log of questions that arise as you read.
- 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 points above.

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 classwork and discussion in August and September. 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.

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