



Eleventh Grade AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Guidelines

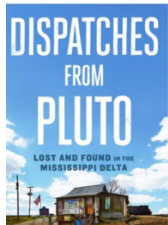
I. Reading Portion

This summer, you will **choose one** of the following books to read. Because of the nature of the course, the choices are non-fiction pieces that will support the College Board's curriculum for AP Language and Composition. You should close read the text, and annotations will help keep you engaged. You will take a test on your chosen book on Friday, August 11. The Compliance Form must be signed and returned on August 11.

The choices are as follows:

Dispatches from Pluto by Richard Grant

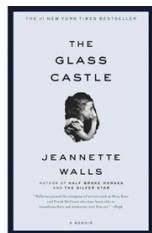
ISBN: 978-1476709642



Richard Grant and his girlfriend were living in a shoebox apartment in New York City when they decided on a whim to buy an old plantation house in the Mississippi Delta. ***Dispatches from Pluto*** is a book as unique as the Delta itself. It's lively, entertaining, and funny, containing a travel writer's flair for in-depth reporting alongside insightful reflections on poverty, community, and race. It's also a love story, as the nomadic Grant learns to settle down. He falls not just for his girlfriend but for the beguiling place they now call home. Mississippi, Grant concludes, is the best-kept secret in America.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

ISBN 978-0-7432-4754-2



The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another. This memoir is a true story, a thought-provoking journey that shows real "grit" and the unique ability to overcome a chaotic and destructive upbringing.

II. Writing Portion for AP Language and Composition

Secondly, find ways to tune into to the news. AP Language is all about thinking and writing critically about a wide range of topics and current events, and there are so many ways to do that today. Your writing assignment this summer is to expand your world and learn “a little bit about a lot.” (You will hear that expression often in class.)

For each category below, choose what you want to read or listen to. Use the questions for reflection. Write those reflections on a Google doc that you will turn in on Friday, August 11.

<p>Journalism</p>	<p>Read TWO opinion articles from a major news source. If you go to their websites, you will find a category called OPINIONS in the menu. Choose a “columnist,” not letters or editorials. You will see written opinions on many topics. Pick two to read that look interesting to you.</p>	<p>In your reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the title of the piece, author, and a summary. • State the author’s claim • Write about how they support this claim. • What did you notice about the writing style that was reflective of persuasive? • Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not?
<p>Podcast</p>	<p>You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, or other music streaming services. There are thousands to choose from but choose one that is “family friendly” and that you can discuss in a classroom setting. Choose one podcast and listen to AT LEAST THREE episodes of it.</p>	<p>In your reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the title of the podcast and a brief summary of the episodes. • What specific choices do the podcast producers make to create an engaging podcast? • Did you enjoy the episodes? Why or why not?
<p>Documentary Film</p>	<p>Google “best documentaries” and you will get a list of the newest ones on Netflix and also classic documentaries that have stood the test of time. Choose one full length (non-episodic) documentary you have not seen on a topic that you are not especially familiar with.</p>	<p>In your reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the title, network, and summary of the film. • What is the purpose of this film? How do you know? • What specific choices do the filmmakers make in order to convince or inform you of their purpose? • Did you like the documentary? Explain why or why not.