



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN SINCE 1872

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2023-2024

Reading Assignment: Choose ONE book from CATEGORY 1 to read and annotate. Then read the REQUIRED BOOK from CATEGORY 2 and annotate it as well. Then, please follow the writing assignment below. You are to write two (2) reflections in total. From category 1, please select something that “speaks to you.” I want you to ENJOY what you are reading or find fulfillment in having read the piece. If you have no interest in a title or subject, put it down and move on in the lists.

Category 1 (Choose 1) Non-Fiction:

<i>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft</i> by Stephen King	ISBN-13: 9781982159375
<i>In Cold Blood</i> by Truman Capote	ISBN-13: 9780679745587
<i>Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens in Hitler’s Olympics</i> by Jeremy Schaap	ISBN-13: 9780618919109
<i>Silent Spring</i> by Rachel Carson	ISBN-13: 9780618249060
<i>Hiroshima</i> by John Hersey	ISBN-13: 9781684116881
<i>Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women</i> by Kate Moore	ISBN-13: 9781492650959
<i>A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy...</i> by Sonia Purnell	ISBN-13: 9780735225312
<i>Mere Christianity</i> by C.S. Lewis	ISBN-13: 9780060652920
<i>I Am Malala: The Girl who Stood Up for Education...</i> by Malala Yousafzai (not YA edition)	ISBN-13: 9780316322423
<i>A Walk in the Woods</i> by Bill Bryson	ISBN-13: 9780307279460

Category 2 (REQUIRED) Fiction:

<i>Quicksand</i> by Nella Larsen	ISBN-13 : 978-1891396991
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Discussion Assignment: After reading your book selections, please write a reflection for each book. Each reflection should be approximately but no less than 250 words. Choose from the prompts below for your reflection.

Category 1 (Non-Fiction Prompts):

1. What evidence does the author give to support the book's ideas? Does he/she use personal observations? Facts? Statistics? Opinions? Historical Documents? Scientific research? Quotations from Authorities?
2. Does the author make a call to action to readers—individually or collectively? Is that call realistic? Idealistic? Achievable? Would readers be able to affect the desired outcome?
3. Can you point to specific passages that struck you personally—as interesting, profound, silly or shallow, incomprehensible, illuminating? (Be sure to identify the passage specifically before writing about it.)
4. What kind of language does the author use? Is it objective and dispassionate? Or passionate and earnest? Is it polemical, sarcastic? Does the language help or undercut the author's premise?

Category 2 (Quicksand):

1. Can you pick out a passage that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting? (Be sure to identify the passage specifically before writing about it.)
2. Do you find the characters convincing? Are they believable? Are they fully developed as complex human beings or were they one-dimensional?
3. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn into the story or did it take a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?

DUE: Please bring your PRINTED reflections to class with you on the VERY FIRST day of class. This will be a GRADED assignment.

Each reflection will be worth 15 points. It is expected that you will use MLA format and proper writing conventions. Please refer to *A Pocket Style Manual* if you have any questions. Responses should meet the minimum word count requirement, be thorough in their exploration of the prompts, and use both general and specific examples to support your points.

If you have any questions about the directions or requirements, email Mrs. Pixley at jpixley@vmahs.org.