

AP English Language and Composition

2023-2024 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Mrs. R ↓ rlriefer@marcellusschools.org ↓ Class Code: idywnnn

Introduction

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. In this class, we will focus on developing our analytical reading and writing skills as part of your journey to become thoughtful, contributing global citizens. To get us started, you will need to complete this summer assignment.

Your summer assignment is a chance for you to read a few texts, explore ideas, and write in response to what you are reading and thinking. The assignment has three parts, and all work is due **Wednesday, September 6th at 10 AM**. This means you will bring your notebook with you to class and will have turned in your final project.

For the full-length read, you may go to the local library to secure a copy of your choice book or purchase a copy of your own.

As Voltaire said, “Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too.” Enjoy the privilege of reading great texts. Enjoy the writing process. In short, have a great summer!

Part I: Organizing

Anchor Texts -- [1] [How I Take Notes](#) and [2] [10 Note-Taking Tips](#); [3] [Cornell Note Taking Method](#) (both videos); [4] [The Power of Sketchnotes](#); [5] Graham Shaw’s TED Talk [How to Draw to Remember More](#)

Assignment -- Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.). We will use this notebook all year, so find one that you really like. Your AP Lang notebook should *only* be used for AP Lang.

After you have secured a notebook, complete the following Anchor Text Reflections:

- After watching StudyTee’s notes system (texts 1 & 2), think about how you can benefit from this organizational method. Reflect, in writing, on the ideas she presents on how to organize your notes. Your work should be done in your notebook and reflect her system.
- Watch both videos on the Cornell Notetaking Method: What are Cornell notes? and How to Use Cornell Notes. Demonstrate your understanding of the Cornell Note system by taking notes on the videos in Cornell note format.
- For sketchnotes (texts 4&5), complete a [Notice/Focus](#), and then answer WHY visual and sketch notes are a powerful learning tool. Use Cornell note format with sketchnotes included in your notes section.

Why it is important -- The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy; the most important aspects are not always salient. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. Your personalized notebook will serve as a means to consolidate what you will learn throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make. Make it your own. Decorate it if you like, or keep it clean and clear. Completing independent learning on how to take notes, and putting it into practice, will support your growth as an independent learner. You have to figure out what notetaking systems work best for you, and this task allows you to explore several strategies, and perhaps a hybrid of the three styles will become your style.

Part II: Reading

Anchor Text -- Leo Babuta's List: [20 Amazing and Essential Non-fiction Books to Enrich Your Library](#) or any novel off of [this list](#) (National Book Awards) or [this one](#) (Pulitzer Prize Winners) from the past 25 years.

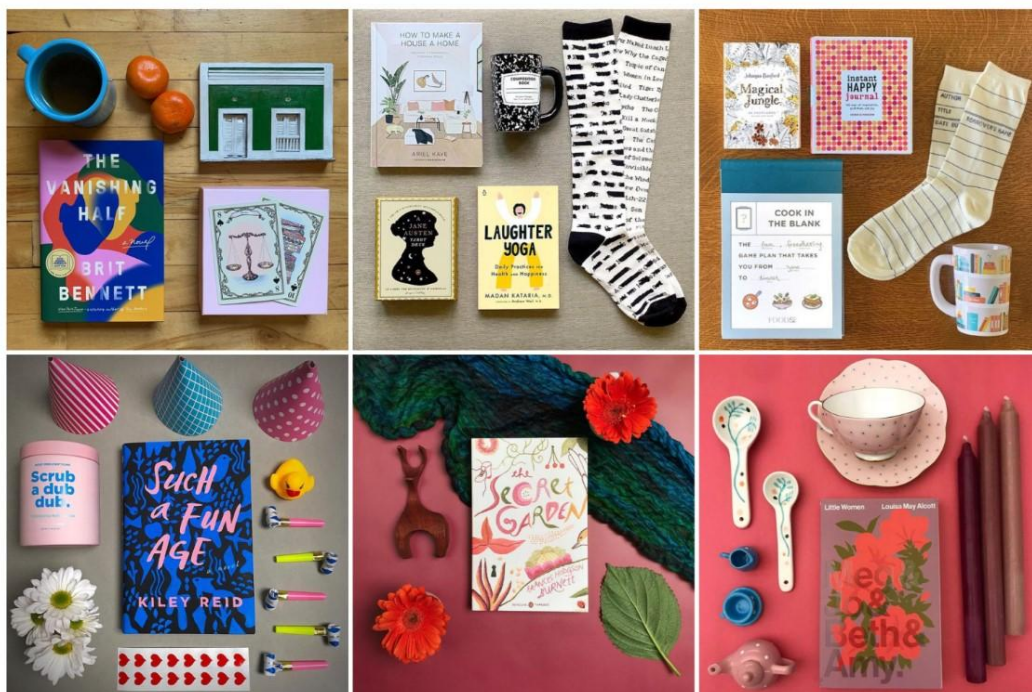
I'm sure many an English teacher in your lives has touted why reading is important and good for you. Creative Writer Nitin Namdeo explains that "A reader has always multiple views for a thing or situation, and this is the blessing of reading."

Assignment -- Select and read, thoughtfully and closely, a book of your choosing from one of the three lists above. **You must select a text from one of the lists - NO EXCEPTIONS.** As you read, create two-three {2-3} pages of notes (in your notebook) about your book. How you organize those pages is up to you, but you should **consider the notetaking videos you completed** before starting this task.

I know this is vague and undefined, but look at it another way. I am empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I'm asking you to do is create two-three interesting pages of notes about your reading experience. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome!

Why it is important -- A mature thinker chooses and develops his or her own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. I respect your ability to make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, and personal experiences, and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed my expectations. So do it!

Part III: The Book Bento: A Visual Literary Analysis



A Book Bento is a flat-lay photo of a book, surrounded by images that correlate with the plot, themes, or setting.

Assignment --

After reading your selected book, create a flat-lay photo of your book surrounded by 3D objects that correlate with the plot, themes, or settings. Then write an analysis that explains why each item was selected and how it ties to the book.

Please review the attached Rubric.

Why it is important -- A thoughtful reader is able to integrate analysis in ways that go beyond writing. This assignment will allow your creativity to shine because although writing is still required, it's not the sole requirement.

The Book Bento: A Visual Literary Analysis


The Rubric

Photo Elements	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes selected book Uses 4-6 objects that clearly represent the book Uses a background that relates to the book 					
Photo Requirements	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat lay Glare and shadow free Consistent color palette 					
Write-Up Response (x2)	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains why each item was selected and how it ties to your novel of choice Connects with the setting, themes, figurative language, and conflicts, rather than just plot The paragraph(s) is/are mechanically neat and analytic in nature 					

The General Guideline to Define the 1-5 Scale

4-5 Strong Response- Excellent effort. The student provides a thoughtful response to the prompt that is grammatically correct.	3 Adequate- The response addresses the prompt at a sufficient, but basic level, without providing much depth or originality. Some grammatical errors are present.	2 Some Effort- The response attempts to answer the prompt, but only manages partial success. Many issues with grammar and mechanics are present.	1 Minimal Effort- The response demonstrates little attention to the prompt and/or text. Significant errors in grammar and mechanics are present.
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A Partial Example:

	<p><i>"...Bear patches: This book bento displays three bear patches, similar to the patches of a bear on the Beartown hockey jerseys. The bear itself is a common symbol of ferocious courage. In the small town, getting to wear this patch signifies that you are a part of the hockey program, and you are to be loyal to your fellow bears – no matter the situation. This pack mentality serves as another stepping stone into the difficulty that Maya and her family go through when revealing the truth..."</i></p>
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