

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

## SUMMER READING 2024-2025

### Common Book

All students entering Advanced Placement English Language and Composition should read the following text before school begins in the fall:

- Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. New York: Penguin, 1985/2005. ISBN 978-014036531 or 014303653X.

During the opening weeks of school, we will discuss and write about Postman's argument concerning the impact that changes in media and technology have had on education, political discourse, and our capacity for critical thought. With that in mind, please read with a pen in hand, making annotations that will be helpful in our discussion and writing this fall. These annotations can be modeled on the annotations you have made in previous classes, but if you are interested in additional approaches to annotation, you might consult Mortimer J. Adler's "How To Mark a Book," which is [widely available online](#).

### Pick One! (Or More!)

Additionally, all students entering AP English Language should read **at least one book** from the following list before school begins in the fall. As with *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, please make annotations that will help you be prepared for discussion and/or writing related to the book. You may find more information about these texts [at this link](#).

Abbey, <i>Desert Solitaire</i>	Larson, <i>The Devil in the White City</i>
Bryson, <i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i>	Lee, <i>The City in Which I Love You</i>
Capote, <i>In Cold Blood</i>	Mandel, <i>Station Eleven</i>
Camus, <i>The Stranger</i>	McPhee, <i>Encounters with the Archdruid</i>
Coetzee, <i>The Lives of Animals</i>	Michaels, <i>Fugitive Pieces</i>
Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>	Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
Cooper, <i>A Most Beautiful Thing</i>	Murakami, <i>Kafka on the Shore</i>
Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
DeLillo, <i>White Noise</i>	Nafisi, <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>
Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	O'Brien, <i>In the Lake of the Woods</i>
Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i>
Dillard, <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>	Orwell, <i>1984</i>
Ehrenreich, <i>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America</i>	Pirsig, <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>
Einstein, <i>Relativity</i>	Postman, <i>Building a Bridge to the 18th Century</i>
Epstein, <i>Range</i>	Rovelli, <i>Reality Is Not What it Seems</i>
Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Sanders, <i>A Private History of Awe</i>
Florey, <i>Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog</i>	Schlosser, <i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i>
Gardner, <i>Grendel</i>	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
Gilman, <i>Herland</i>	Sinclair, <i>The Jungle</i>
Hawking, <i>A Brief History of Time</i>	Spiegelman, <i>Maus I and Maus II</i>
Hayakawa, <i>Language in Thought &amp; Action</i>	Thoreau, <i>Walden</i>
Heller, <i>Catch-22</i>	Twain, <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Hemingway, <i>A Moveable Feast</i> (The restored edition)	Twenge, <i>iGen</i>
Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i>	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>
Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>	Warren, <i>All the King's Men</i>
Kerouac, <i>On the Road</i>	Williams, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Kingsolver, <i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i>	Zinn, <i>A People's History of the United States</i>

When we return to school in the fall, please bring the texts you've read to class. If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact Mr. Gooch via email at [sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org](mailto:sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org).