

Outside Reading: AP English Language and Composition

The Google Classroom code is **fmwd53f**

Step 1: Choose a book. Choose one of the books below.

Step 2: Annotate the book. I will be checking your annotations.

Step 3: Journal while reading the book.

Step 4: Outside reading essay test—2nd Friday back, which is January 17, 2025.

Autobiography/Memoir/Biography

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. (Describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature.)

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. (A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini.)

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore*. A story of two men with the same name but two very different life paths.

Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*. “recounts the unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing Walls and her siblings had at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents. The title refers to her father's long held intention of building his dream house, a glass castle.”

Liu, Simu. *We were Dreamers*. “In this honest, inspiring and relatable memoir, newly-minted superhero Simu Liu chronicles his family's journey from China to the bright lights of Hollywood.”

Conroy, Pat. *The Great Santini* (A memoir about Pat's father who was a Marine Pilot).

Nature/Adventure/Science

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. (The jaw-dropping exposé on how America's fast food industry has shaped the landscape of America.)

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*. (Everest climb gone wrong.)

Carson, Ben. *Gifted Hands*. A memoir on the early career of neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone*. (book on the first Ebola Crisis)

Preston, Richard. *The Crisis in the Red Zone* (book on the 2014 Ebola Crisis)

Hickman, Homer. *Rocket Boys*. (Autobiography of the author and his friends on how they escaped the coal mines of West Virginia and became rocket scientists.)

Sports

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit*. (Sports biography of a great American racehorse in Depression-era America.)

Conroy, Pat. *My Losing Season*. (Famous author in his senior year at The Citadel.)

Brown, Daniel James. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.

Lewis, Michael. *The Blind Side*. (Story of Michael Orr and finding a family in the most unlikely place and his football career).

History/Social Sciences

Winchester, Simon. *The Professor and The Madman*. (Tale of the compilation of Oxford Dictionary.)

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. (Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned.)

Northrup, Solomon. *Twelve Years A Slave*. (A freed man is captured and sent back into slavery for 12 years, and his journey back to becoming free).

Meltzer, Brad. *The Lincoln Conspiracy*. (Book on the assassination attempts on Lincoln's life).

Meltzer, Brad. *The Washington Conspiracy*. (Book on the little known plot by the British to assassinate George Washington and the early creation of the secret service).

Harden, Blaine. *Escape from Camp 14*. (The life and journey to freedom of a young man born in a North Korean prison camp).

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone* (Author's personal experience of being a child soldier in Sierra Leone and his quest for forgiveness and recovery).

True Crime

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. (On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces.)

Larson, Erik. *The Devil and the White City*. (The Chicago World's Fair and the first serial killer)

Grann, David. *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

Approved Presidential Memoirs

An Autobiography By Theodore Roosevelt

Decision Points by George W. Bush

The Memoirs of Richard Nixon

An American Life by Ronald Regan

A Full life: Reflections at 90 by Jimmy Carter

Any of Truman or Eisenhower memoirs on their presidency (there are about 3 per president but pick 1).

The Vantage Point Perspectives of the Presidency 1963-1969 by Lyndon B. Johnson

Other nonfiction choices are welcome, but the book must be approved by Ms. Spisz to make sure the book matches the reading level and standards of the College Board.

Journal Directions

Reading Journals; complete DURING reading.

1. While reading, keep track of important events, characters, symbols, motifs, themes, figurative language, plot points, and conflicts aka. annotations. You can use sticky notes, write directly in the book, or create notes on a Google Doc or notebook. Note: I will check for sticky notes and/or your own notes throughout the text. These notes will be a separate formative grade.

2. THEN, type/write your responses to each of the following questions for each chapter. You will complete these questions for each chapter.

- a. State the three most important events that occur during each chapter. Explain why these events are most important for that part of the story and how these events develop the idea of community. Explain why these details are important. Provide textual evidence as part of your discussion.
- b. Explain at least two conflicts that develop during each chapter. Then, discuss why these conflicts are important within the story and develop the theme topic of community. Discuss why those conflicts are important. Provide textual evidence as part of your discussion.
- c. Discuss your personal feelings about each of the main characters in each chapter. Develop a log of character traits (positive and negative) for each character and use textual evidence from the book to support the character traits. Include why you like or dislike the character based on traits, actions, or other reasons. This character reading log should span over the course of the entire book. Also include how each character impacts the community.

If you are reading a book that does not have recurring people throughout the text, then you will track events. For each chapter track all of the events, the problems vs. solutions, and outcomes. Instead of doing a character log, you will do a log tracking your thoughts and feelings on the problems/solutions to the events within the book and what they are doing/could do/have done.