

# AP Language and Composition Summer Reading 2024

**Part 1: Choose one non-fiction text to read! Be ready to write about it upon return to school.**

**Some of these books may include strong language, references to drugs or sex, and violent content. Please look into your options before choosing.**

*An Hour before Daylight* (Jimmy Carter)

The Depression-era boyhood of future President Jimmy Carter on a farm in rural Georgia.

*A Walk in the Woods* (Bill Bryson)

The story of the author's attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail in 1996.

*Under the Tuscan Sun* (Frances Mayes)

Recently divorced Frances and her new partner Ed rehabilitate a home in Italy, falling in love with the food, culture, and life in Tuscany.

*Into The Wild* (Jon Krakauer)

The true story of the death of Christopher McCandless, who ventured into Alaska in hopes of living "off the grid" in 1992.

*My Losing Season* (Pat Conroy)

The story of Conroy's senior season as a point guard on the basketball team at The Citadel and his conflicts with his coach and the culture of the military college.

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Maya Angelou)

The first 16 years in the life of poet Maya Angelou in Stamps, Arkansas.

*Stay True* (Hua Hsu)

The story of writer Hua Hsu's college friendship with Ken, his polar opposite in many ways, as they bond over their lack of connection to American culture. Ken's violent death is a pivotal moment for Hsu.

*Born a Crime* (Trevor Noah)

Comedian and *Daily Show* host describes his upbringing in South Africa as a mixed-race child in the apartheid era.

*Bones Blood and Butter* (Gabrielle Hamilton)

The culinary and personal experiences of chef Gabrielle Hamilton in kitchens around the world and in her own acclaimed New York restaurant, Prune.

*Action Park* (Andy Mulvihill and Jake Rossen)

The true story of a wild and dangerous New Jersey amusement park owned by the father of co-author Andy Mulvihill and managed by his family.

***Notes from a Young Black Chef* (Kwame Onwuachi)**

The story of a young chef, growing up in New York City and Nigeria, and his development from troublemaker to *Top Chef* finalist.

***Hillbilly Elegy* (J.D. Vance)**

Memories of growing up in the hollers of rural Kentucky and Ohio from a future US Senator.

***Running with Sherman* (Christopher McDougall)**

A writer and competitive runner trains a rescue donkey to run a grueling man-and-donkey race in Colorado in an attempt to help it recover from life with an animal hoarder.

***Bravey* (Alexi Pappas)**

Memoir of an Olympic distance runner touching on competition, mental health, women's health and sexuality, and family.

***Educated* (Tara Westover)**

Growing up in a isolated religious survivalist family in Idaho, the author struggles to get into Cambridge and create a bridge between her isolated family and the larger world

***A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* (Dave Eggers)**

A memoir from an American writer about the sudden deaths of both of his parents during his senior year of college and his new responsibility, taking care of his younger brother.

***Me Talk Pretty One Day* (David Sedaris)**

A collection of essays detailing this early life and then the adult life of NPR commentator, comedian, and essayist David Sedaris.

***You Could Make this Place Beautiful* (Maggie Smith)**

Poet Maggie Smith explores the disintegration of her marriage and renewed commitment to herself

***A Man of Two Faces* (Viet Thanh Nguyen)**

Pulitzer Prize winner author offers a memoir about culture, politics, and immigration from Vietnam

## Part 2: Essay Analysis Assignment

**Read five essays** from the list below. For each essay read, complete an analysis chart using the attached worksheet (you may make your own copies of this worksheet or create your own using this one as a format).

Essays (read online):

Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"  
<http://art-bin.com/art/omodest.html>

Jonathan Swift, "A Meditation upon a Broomstick"  
<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/swift/jonathan/s97me/>

Annie Dillard, "This is the Life"  
<http://www.billememory.com/dillard/dillard.html>

Ralph Waldo Emerson (any of the following: "The Poet," "Experience," "Character," "Manners," "Gifts," "Nature," "Politics," "Nominalist and Realist," "New England Reformers")  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext01/2srrwe10.txt>

Henry David Thoreau "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For"  
[http://www.princeton.edu/~batke/thoreau/wa02\\_where](http://www.princeton.edu/~batke/thoreau/wa02_where)

G.K. Chesterton (any of the following: "A Piece of Chalk," "Babies," "A Defence of Rash Vows," "The Extraordinary Cabman," "Mending and Ending Things," "Negative and Positive Morality," "The Twelve Men")  
<http://www.chesterton.org/gkc/essayist/chalk.htm>

Various essays by Alice Meynell, Francis Bacon, Samuel Butler, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Fiske, Walter Horatio Pater, Thomas de Quincey found at  
<http://www.authorama.com/>

Robert Louis Stevenson "El Dorado"  
<http://dinamico2.unibg.it/rls/essays%5Cvirgpuer%5Cvp-6.htm>

Percy Bysshe Shelley, « On Life »  
<http://www.wam.umd.edu/~djb/shelley/1880onlife.html>

Essays from teachers on slavery in America. Click on titles to read:  
[http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/history/hs\\_essays.htm](http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/history/hs_essays.htm)

Albert Einstein "The World as I see It" (scroll down to link)  
<http://www.aip.org/history/einstein/ein-info.htm>

Jack Lessenberry, journalist, essays. A variety of subject. Click on link on the left (greenish section)  
[http://jackshow.blogs.com/jack/2007/04/essay\\_newspaper.html](http://jackshow.blogs.com/jack/2007/04/essay_newspaper.html)

**Essay Analysis** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>What is the Subject?</b>          The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text. State the subject in a few words or a short phrase.</p>	
<p><b>What is the Occasion?</b>          The time and place of the piece; the current situation. It is particularly important that you understand and explain the context that encouraged the writing to happen.</p>	
<p><b>Who is the Audience?</b>          Audience is the group of readers to whom the piece is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group or a large group; it may be a certain person or people.</p>	
<p><b>What is the purpose?</b>          Purpose is the reason behind the text. (ie: to inform, persuade, entertain, gain sympathy, encourage, gain support)</p>	
<p><b>Who is the speaker?</b>          The speaker is the voice that tells the story. The narrator and author are usually not the same.</p>	
<p><b>What is the tone?</b>          To pinpoint the tone, infer the way the author feels toward the subject or characters, or events, or audience. Does the narrator or author shift tone? Some examples of tone: proud, bold, sarcastic, mocking, joyful, affectionate admiration, compassion, happiness, disgusted, fearful, anxious, ironic, intimidated, shallow, confident, insecure, innocent, playful, anguished, enraged, repulsed, appalled.)</p>	
<p><b>List 5 significant points</b> made in this essay. Quote the text line (first word...last word) that caused you to see each point as significant.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>

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