

Summer Assignment: Junior AP English

Stephanie Braden: sbraden@olatheschools.org

First - let us say that we hope this is not the only book you read this summer. If you plan on challenging yourself academically, you should already have a sense of what interests you and what topics you wish to find more information about. Keep doing that. The more you read, the more ingrained logical patterns and reasoning will set in your mind. This will make reading more complex ideas much easier because you will already have ideas of your own to compare with the ideas you are exploring.

For your AP Lang Summer Assignment, **read one of the following novels**. We highly recommend that you buy your own copy, but the school does have some copies of all novels (except for *The Glass Castle*) to check out for those who need them. As you read, **use Post-its to mark 10 passages that address the focus question that is denoted below**. Be ready to submit this assignment to Canvas on August 17th (the second day of school). You will take pictures of your marked passages using your school computer camera and upload them in class in a single document. We will use these passages at some point during the summer assignment unit.

Be prepared for an assessment of knowledge the first full week of school.

The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls: *A memoir about growing up in deep poverty with unconventional and often neglectful parents, and the complicated love, resilience, and independence that emerge from that experience.*

- **Focus Question:** *To what extent does hardship shape identity in productive—or destructive—ways?*

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson: *A memoir that explores the failures of the American justice system through stories of wrongfully convicted individuals and argues for the necessity of mercy, reform, and human dignity.*

- **Focus Question:** *What responsibility do individuals have to confront injustice in their society?*

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, by Trevor Noah : *A memoir that recounts Trevor Noah's childhood in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, examining how race, language, and identity shaped his experiences and survival.*

- **Focus Question:** *To what extent do unjust systems make rule-breaking necessary?*

Educated , by Tara Westover: *A memoir about a woman raised in a strict, isolated family who pursues education and must ultimately redefine her identity, beliefs, and relationships.*

- **Focus Question:** *To what extent does education transform identity?*

Please make sure you finish the text and mark good passages before you arrive at school in August. We will hit the ground running with the learning activities and the assessment. Being totally prepared will help you feel confident and set you up for success. We can't wait to meet you!