

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION - INSTRUCTOR: MRS. BRYANT

Dear AP Students,

I am excited about learning alongside you next year in AP Language and Composition. As you spend time frolicking in the sun, sleeping till noon, and binge-watching your favorite television series, please remember that you have reading to do in order to prepare for our academic adventure together.

Please read the following:

- ***Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore** - This book, told in two voices, brings together Denver, a homeless man who has escaped plantation-style slavery only to end up on the streets; Ron, an upscale art dealer accustomed to luxury and wealth; and Deborah, Ron's wife whose dream pushes them all to change. This story explores the ways people can be changed not only by others around them but by the power of God working in their lives. One thing that makes this book interesting for us is that much of it is set in Dallas/Fort Worth.
- **5 Op Ed Columns on topics related to the book** - Op Ed means opposite the Editorial Page. This is a reference to newspapers when they were actually printed on paper. Op Ed columnists write pieces that express their opinions and observations about the world and events in the world. To find an Op Ed piece, you can google Op Ed and a newspaper (New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and others) and perhaps the topic you are looking for. Print your columns and be ready to discuss them on the first day of class. Topics that you might look for are ideas related to homelessness and poverty.

INSTRUCTIONS:

As you read, it's important that you thoroughly annotate your copy of the book and the columns. I know this may seem like a waste of time to you, but I promise that this habit will help you now and in future academic endeavors. Here are some suggestions:

- Be sure to do more than just highlight passages. In fact, I prefer that you not use a highlighter at all. Instead, use a pen of a different color so that you can see it in contrast to the text. You should be writing words, drawing arrows, underlining, even drawing little symbols if that's your style. Words will help you remember later what you were thinking.
- Annotating is really most useful if done as you read, not done later just to fulfill an assignment.
- Think of your annotating as a conversation with the book or the author. You are actively engaging the text.
- What should you mark?
 - Things that stand out to you. Much of annotating is personal.
 - Questions you have. Write them in the margin.
 - Responses you have to the content. Write them in the margin. These can be conversational or emotional responses. You can even use your own emojis or other symbols.
 - Content that is particularly well-written.
 - Content that is related to the author's purpose.
 - Important character information.
 - Shifts, contrasts, ironies in the narrative.
 - Content that demonstrates effective or distinctive style choices (Remember that style is use of language, syntax (sentence structure), figurative language, symbols, motifs, description, etc.) Be sure not to just identify, but also comment on purpose and effect.
- Be sure to **make a brief bullet list of important events at the end of each chapter/section**. This practice will help you later as you go back to discuss and write about the book.

Supplies:

- Colored pens for annotating.
- Please bring a package of printer paper or a box of tissues the first day of class.