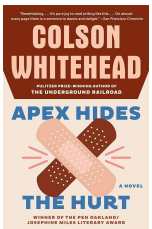
Apex Hides the Hurt by Colson Whitehead ISBN 978-1400031269 Knopf	
Why has this book been chosen for AP Lit?	*Apex Hides the Hurt* is the story of an unnamed "nomenclature consultant"—someone whose job is to name products and who is hired to decide what a small Midwestern town should rename itself. The story is both a compelling extended allegory about contemporary American culture and a model of scholarly analysis: the protagonist is exceptionally attuned to the sounds, associations, undertones, and other nuances of language, just as we in AP Literature & Composition will strive to be throughout the year.
What should students do with the book before they return to school?	At this level, students are expected to know how to read independently and critically, engaging with the text by noting key ideas and passages of interest with questions and comments via consistent and insightful marginal annotations (or a comparable note-taking system). Pay particular attention to passages that examine how language generates meaning and actions, descriptions, and events that capture the various stakeholders' attitudes regarding the renaming of the town.
How will this book be used and assessed *after* school begins?	Upon return in the fall, students can expect an in-class timed assessment on the second or third day of class, followed by additional related discussions and activities.