



2026 Advanced Academics Summer Study

AP Language & Composition

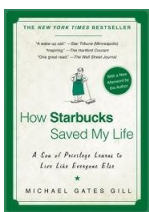
A Note for Students and Parents/Guardians: Aledo ISD's Advanced RLA courses are built on College Board's Areas of Focus for English: **reading closely**, **valuing evidence**, and **noticing language choices**. Over the summer, students will select and read one of the texts from the list below, which were curated from Albert.IO's recommended reading list—a source aligned to AP assessment practices. Each title was chosen for its literary merit and the richness of the author's craft. While not all texts are identical in theme or content, each offers opportunities for deep reading and academic discussion, which students will use in their first unit of study in the fall. Please note: AP Language & Composition is a college-level course, and some selections may include mature themes. We strongly encourage families to preview options and select the title that best aligns with their student's readiness and values. If you have questions or concerns, please contact AHS/DNG at 817-441-8711.

Text Choices-Please select ONE title from the list below to read, in its entirety, this summer.

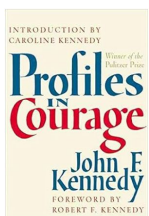
Make sure to bring a copy to class for the first 3 weeks of school.

AP Lang is a deep dive into an author's rhetoric—the art of writing effectively, eloquently, and persuasively. The texts below were chosen for their powerful use of rhetoric and its potential, real world impact. These texts model the kind of writing you will analyze and craft throughout the course. Your job this summer is to read closely, noting how an author establishes a stance on a complex issue, determining the events that influence that stance, and analyzing how the author's rhetorical choices shape the audience's understanding of the argument. Your close reading and annotations will not be graded but will be used to support assignments, especially in the first quarter.

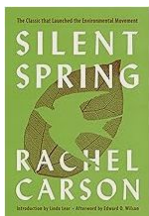
**Some of these titles contain mature language and/or situations. Select the text with which you are most comfortable.*



How Starbucks Saved My Life by Michael Gates Gill is a memoir about unexpected second chances and personal transformation. Once a successful advertising executive, Gill finds himself unemployed, divorced, and struggling—until he takes a job at a local Starbucks. Through his experiences behind the counter, he gains humility, purpose, and a new perspective on work, privilege, and human connection. This personal narrative explores themes of reinvention, gratitude, and finding dignity in everyday life.



Profiles in Courage is a Pulitzer Prize-winning book by John F. Kennedy that profiles eight U.S. Senators who demonstrated exceptional political courage by making difficult, often unpopular decisions for the good of the country. The book explores the nature of political integrity and patriotism through the stories of influential political figures. In the 50's and 60's, it became an instant classic, celebrated for its exploration of leadership and moral conviction in the face of public pressure.



Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson, is a landmark 1962 book that exposed the harmful effects of indiscriminate pesticide use, particularly DDT, on the environment and human health, sparking the modern environmental movement. Rarely does a single book alter the course of history, but this title did exactly that. The outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water.