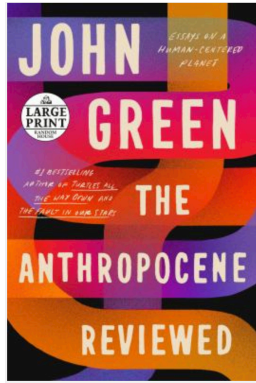


Briarcliff High School

AP English Language and Composition

2026



Required Summer Reading

All incoming AP English Language and Composition students are expected to read *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green.

Please purchase the novel on your own whether it be the physical book or a download. We will be working with it for the first weeks of school.

Contact: jmandel@briarcliffschools.org if you need any assistance.

Assignment for *The Anthropocene Reviewed*:

As you read *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, pay special attention to Green's writing style and his observations about how the Anthropocene is marked by both human effects on the environment and changes in global culture. His essay topics range from the mundane to the profound.

Next, pick twenty essays and rate them on a five-star scale. Then, write a three to four sentence rating rationale for each chosen essay written in your distinctive voice, whether it's passionate, disgusted, snarky, inspired, pessimistic, hopeful, etc. Of your 20 essays, 5 must come from each section of the 44 essays.

Section 1 – Essays 1 to 10 “You’ll Never Walk Alone” to “Teddy Bears”

Section 2 – Essays 11-20 “The Hall of the Presidents” to “The Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest”

Section 3 – Essays 21-30 “Piggly Wiggly” to “The Indianapolis 500”

Section 4 – Essays 31-44 “Monopoly” to *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance*

During the first week of school, your sentences should be posted to Turnitin and will count for homework credit. Turnitin is not available over the summer, so when you return to school, we will create a log in to Turnitin to post your work. You may read outside sources to assist you in understanding, but you must write original sentences and may not use AI to generate your writing. You will have an assessment on *The Anthropocene Reviewed* during the first weeks of school.

OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT

In the first weeks of September, we will review many punctuation rules and grammar concepts. Plan to use the summertime to clear up any nagging problems. Websites such as *No Red Ink* will have exercises. If you use *No Red Ink*, please remember your log in and password as we will be using it in class with a premium subscription and your work will carry over. Another option is to google the grammar/punctuation term and websites with exercises will come up. We will be covering these in the beginning months of school, so it would behoove you to familiarize yourself with the grammar rules. You will be expected to master these areas during

the fall to apply them to your writing throughout the year, and you will take an exam to demonstrate a command of the writing skills and strategies listed below. Unless otherwise indicated, you can search for each rule under its name on the website.

Independent clauses
Dependent clauses
Active and passive voice
Parallel structure
Compound structures and/or coordinating conjunctions
Shifts in point of view (*not on NRI*)
Tense shifts (*not on NRI*)
Misplaced and dangling modifiers
Subject/verb agreement
Indefinite pronouns (*under Pronoun Antecedent Agreement*)
Collective nouns (*under subject-verb agreement II*)
Plural form, singular meaning (*under subject-verb agreement II*)
Irregular verbs (*know the difference for the verb hang*)
Tense agreement (*under verb tense I and II*)
Pronoun-antecedent agreement
Pronoun reference
Personal pronouns (*under Identifying Parts of Speech III*)
Who and whom (*under Pronoun Case Part III*)
Looked and felt and adverbs vs. adjectives (*not on NRI*)
Sentence fragments (*under Identifying Sentences and Fragments*)
Restrictive clauses and non-restrictive clauses or essential vs. non-essential is the synonym
Parenthetical expressions (*under Phrases and Dependent Clauses II*)
Appositives
Transitional expressions (*under Punctuation with Conjunctions: ALL look at SWABI and THAMOS*)
The semi-colon (*under Connecting Clauses with Colons and Semi-colons*)
The colon (*under Connecting Clauses with Colons and Semi-colons*)
The apostrophe (*under Commonly Confused Words I and Possessive Pronouns*)
Quotations marks (*under Embedding Quotations – Capitalizing Quotes and Dialogue Quotes and Colon Quotes*)
Titles of works (*under Capitalizing and Formatting Titles*)
Fewer vs. less
Affect and effect (*under Commonly Confused Words III*)
The absolute (*not on NRI*)

If you're looking for some other good books to read this summer, check out the list below!

Suggested Summer Reading

11th & 12th Grade

Here is a list of suggested books for incoming 11th & 12th grade students. None of these books are required – they're just great books to read and enjoy!

- Acevedo, Elizabeth ***Family Lore:*** Flor has a gift: she can predict, to the day, when someone will die. So when she decides she wants a living wake, her sisters are surprised. Has Flor foreseen her own death, or someone else's? Does she have other motives? She refuses to tell her sisters. But Flor isn't the only one with secrets: her sisters are hiding things, too. And the next generation, cousins Ona and Yadi, face tumult of their own.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse ***Shout:*** Inspired by her fans and enraged by how little in our culture has changed since her groundbreaking novel *Speak* was first published twenty years ago, Anderson has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she's never written about before.
- Austen, Jane ***Sense and Sensibility:*** Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behavior leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love - and its threatened loss - the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.
- Boulley, Angeline ***Firekeeper's Daughter:*** Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her mother. Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, that thrusts her into an FBI investigation and she agrees to go undercover to help. Now, as more people die, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community.
- Bronte, Charlotte ***Jane Eyre:*** Jane Eyre, a penniless orphan, is engaged as governess at Thornfield Hall by the mysterious Mr Rochester. Her integrity and independence are tested to the limit as their love for each other grows, and the secrets of Mr Rochester's past are revealed.
- Brown, Daniel ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics:*** Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.
- Bella, Timothy ***Barkley: A Biography:*** The definitive biography of Charles Barkley, exploring his early childhood, his storied NBA career, and his enduring legacy as a provocative voice in American pop culture.

Bruni, Frank

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College

Admissions Mania: Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded by test prep, tutors, all sorts of stratagems, all kinds of rankings, and a conviction among too many young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no. Bruni explains why this mindset is wrong, giving students and their parents a new perspective on this brutal, deeply flawed competition and a path out of the anxiety that it provokes.

Buxbaum, Julie

Admission: An affluent teen who thinks she is headed off to the college of her dreams, must reckon with the truth and possibly her own guilt when her mother is arrested in a college admissions bribery scandal.

Burcaw, Shane & Hannah Burcaw

Interabled: Love Stories About Love and Disability from Squirmy & Grubs and Other Interabled Couples: YouTube sensations Shane and Hannah Burcaw are back with a groundbreaking, uproarious collection of essays and short stories about what it means to be in an interabled relationship. With their signature wit and hilarious voice, authors, bloggers and entrepreneurs Shane and Hannah Burcaw have put together a true story collection of sweet and unforgettable love stories about interabled couples.

Caletti, Deb

One Great Lie: When Charlotte wins a scholarship to a writing workshop in Venice with the brilliant Luca Bruni, it's a dream come true. Charlotte is hoping to solve a family mystery about a Venetian poet in their lineage, Isabella Di Angelo, who just might be the real author of a very famous poem. Venice itself is beautiful, charming, and seductive, but so is Luca Bruni. As his behavior becomes increasingly unnerving, Charlotte begins to unearth the long-lost work of Isabella & discovers secrets about the past and present. As the events of the summer build to a shattering climax, Charlotte will be forced to confront some dark truths about the history of powerful men--and about the determination of creative girls.

Cameron, Peter

Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You: Eighteen-year-old gay teen James wants to use his college money to buy a house in the Midwest. But for now he works in his mother's Manhattan art gallery and falls for a charming older gentleman, and tries to decide what he wants out of life. It's *Catcher in the Rye* in a different voice--witty, reflective, terse.

Chupeco, Rin

We Are Not Safe Here: Wispy Falls is safe. The town motto is even "You'll be Safe Here!" But you aren't safe in the woods that surround the town. In the woods there are monsters. People go missing in the woods. And sometimes the monsters don't stay in the woods. A teenage vlogger, known as Storymancer, is determined to get to the bottom of what's wrong in his town. A few years ago his little brother went missing in the woods and no one, not even his parents, seemed to care enough to try to find him. But for the first time a body has been found in the woods and Storymancer is using the opportunity to uncover the rotten core at the heart of Wispy Falls.

Cho, Ian X.

Aisle 9: "Apocalypse on sale" Even though the world is filled with portals to hell, Jasper spends his days working as a check-out clerk at the Here For You mart. Sure, there's a hell portal in aisle 9, but at least he can be near his crush. That she doesn't seem to notice he exists isn't a problem for Jasper, because Jasper can't remember anything since his accident five months ago either.

Davis, Viola	<i>Finding Me:</i> Award winning actress Viola Davis shares her life's story, through her coming-of-age in Rhode Island to her present day. <i>Finding Me</i> is a deep reflection, a promise, and a love letter of sorts to self. “My hope is that my story will inspire you to light up your own life with creative expression and rediscover who you were before the world put a label on you.”
Dessen, Sarah	<i>Change of Plans:</i> Finley accompanies her mom to a vacation house owned by her mom’s estranged family, where Finley’s carefully planned life begins to unravel. But also leads her to new friendships, family truths, and an unexpected romance as she discovers who she is without a roadmap for the future.
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles:</i> Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.
Emill, Jumata	<i>I Don’t Wish You Well:</i> A teen investigative podcaster decides to dig into the truth behind a grisly murder spree that rocked his hometown five years ago. Eventually the murderer was unmasked. But the community has never forgotten – and some folks in town still wonder if the police got it right. Eighteen-year-old podcaster Pryce Cummings is one of them. An aspiring journalist, Pryce is pretty sure he just stumbled upon evidence that throws the killer’s guilt into question.
Gansworth, Eric L.	<i>Apple Skin to Core: A Memoir in Words and Pictures:</i> Eric Gansworth tells the story of his life and family through poems about their Onondaga heritage, from the horrible legacy of government boarding schools, to watching his siblings leave and return and leave again, to his fight to be an artist who balances multiple worlds. Printz Honor Book, 2021
Gazur, Ben	<i>A Short History of the World in 50 Failures:</i> From the botched attempt to create a life-extending elixir that produced gunpowder to the unsuccessful stint in medical school that lead to a career in naturalism for Charles Darwin, to the missile detection system malfunction that almost sparked a nuclear war, the course of human history as often been shaped by failures of all magnitudes.
Gladwell, Malcolm	<i>The Revenge of the Tipping Point:</i> Why is Miami... Miami? What does the heartbreaking fate of cheetahs tell us about how we raise our kids? Why do Ivy League schools care so much about sports? What’s the Magic Third and what does it mean for racial harmony? In this provocative new work, Malcolm Gladwell returns for the first time in 25 years to the subject of social epidemics and tipping points, this time with the aim of explaining the dark side of contagious phenomena.
Heller, Joseph	<i>Catch-22:</i> Satire of military bureaucracy, focusing on the story of John Yossarian, a bombardier in World War II who is trying to avoid getting killed while at the same time dealing with a colonel who keeps upping the number of missions he must fly.
Ireland, Justina	<i>Dread Nation:</i> Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania--derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever. In this new America laws like the Native and Negro Education Act require certain children attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead. Jane is studying to become an Attendant, trained in both weaponry and etiquette to protect the well-to-do. It's a chance for a better life for Negro girls like Jane. But the

restless dead, it would seem, are the least of her problems. ***Sequel: Deathless Divide***

Johnson, Maureen

Death at Morning House: The fire wasn't Marlowe Wexler's fault. But the girl Marlowe's been in love with for years won't go out with him again – no one dates an accidental arsonist. Marlowe's new summer job giving tours at an old mansion called Morning House on an island should be easy enough. But there are plenty of deaths to talk about on the tour. Morning House has horrific secrets and all it takes is one clue to set off a catastrophic chain of events.

King, A.S.

Dig: Only a generation removed from being simple Pennsylvania potato farmers, Gottfried and Marla Hemmings managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now sit atop a seven-figure bank account, wealth they've declined to pass on to their adult children or their teenage grandchildren. Now the five teenagers are lost in family secrets. They all have issues and all are estranged from the family. As they come together for Easter dinner, will they be able to find their ways back to each other? **Printz Medal Winner 2020**

King, Stephen

The Stand: When a man escapes from a biological testing facility, he sets in motion a deadly domino effect, spreading a mutated strain of the flu that will wipe out 99 percent of humanity within a few weeks. The survivors who remain are scared, bewildered, and in need of a leader. Two emerge--Mother Abigail, the benevolent 108-year-old woman who urges them to build a community in Colorado; and Randall Flagg, who delights in chaos and violence.

Larson, Erik

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin: In 1933 William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany. Dodd brings along his daughter, Martha. At first Martha is entranced by the parties and the handsome young men of the Third Reich. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, her father sends his concerns to an indifferent US State Dept. As that first year unfolds, the Dodds experience days full of excitement, intrigue, romance—and horror, when a climactic spasm of violence and murder reveals Hitler's true character.

Lo, Malinda

A Scatter of Light: Aria Tang West was looking forward to a summer on Martha's Vineyard with her best friends. But after a grad party goes wrong, her parents exile her to California to stay with her grandmother, artist Joan West. Aria expects boredom, but what she finds is Steph Nichols, her grandmother's gardener. Soon, Aria is second-guessing who she is and what she wants to be. It is a momentous time for Aria, her family, and the working-class queer community she's in. It's the kind of summer that changes a life forever. **Companion to Last Night at the Telegraph Club.**

McCullough, David

1776: Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America with this unforgettable saga of the people and events that forged American Independence. Based on extensive research in both American and British archives, *1776* is a powerful drama written with extraordinary narrative vitality. It is the story of Americans in the ranks, men of every shape, size and color; farmers, schoolteachers, shoemakers, no-accounts, and mere boys turned soldiers. And it is the story of the King's men, the British commander, William Howe, and his highly disciplined redcoats who looked on their rebel foes with contempt and fought with a valor too little known.

McGhee, Alison	<i>What I Leave Behind:</i> Sixteen-year-old Will spends most of his days the same way: Working at the Dollar Only store, trying to replicate his late father's famous cornbread recipe, and walking the streets of Los Angeles. Will started walking after his father committed suicide, and three years later he hasn't stopped. When Will learns his friend Playa was a victim of a violent crime at a party he was at - he believes he could have stopped the worst from happening if he hadn't left early--it spurs Will to stop being complacent in his own sadness and do some good in the world.
Meyer, Jaqui	<i>Adulting Life Skills for Young Adults, Beyond the Basics:</i> Let's face it, adulting is hard. While this might sound like a cliché, it does ring with truth. The moment your childhood years come to an end, you face a transitional period of life when you have to figure out where you fit. And in all this, you also need to prepare yourself for the life ahead. This book has tips on goal setting – and smashing, money and time management, how to build skills to handle emergencies & taking care of yourself, communication, feelings, the essentials of healthy relationships with family, friends romantic partners and yourself. <i>And much more.</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Song of Solomon:</i> Follows the life of Macon Dead, Jr., the son of the richest black family in a Midwestern town, as he leaves home on a quest for personal freedom.
O'Donnell, Nora	<i>We the Women: The Hidden Heroes who Shaped America:</i> A fresh look at American history through the eyes of women. Highlighting patriots who demanded that the country live up to the promises made 250 years ago in the Declaration of Independence. Since the signing of that document the pressing question from women has been “Why don’t those inalienable rights apply to us?”
Perez, Ashley Hope	<i>Out of Darknes:</i> "This is East Texas, and there's lines. Lines you cross, lines you don't cross. That clear?" New London, Texas. 1937. Naomi Vargas and Wash Fuller know about the lines in East Texas as well as anyone. They know the signs that mark them. They know the people who enforce them. But sometimes the attraction between two people is so powerful it breaks through even the most entrenched color lines. And the consequences can be explosive. Printz Honor Book - 2016
Pirsig, Robert	<i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance:</i> A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and his son, the book becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live. The narrator's relationship with his son leads to a powerful self-reckoning; the craft of motorcycle maintenance leads to an austere beautiful process for reconciling science, religion, and humanism.
Poehler, Amy	<i>Yes, Please:</i> The actress best known for her work on 'Parks and Recreation' and 'Saturday Night Live' reveals personal stories and offers her humorous take on such topics as love, friendship, parenthood, and her relationship with Tina Fey.
Questlove	<i>Hip Hop is History:</i> When Hip Hop first emerged in the 1970s, no one expected it to be the cultural force it is today. But for a young black kid from a musical family in Philadelphia, it was everything. That kid was Questlove. Now he traces the creative and cultural forces that made and shaped Hip Hop, highlighting the forgotten but influential gems and stories that no one else knows. Questlove talks about it as a huge fan and an innovative participant.

Ribay, Randy	<i>After the Shot Drops:</i> Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when <i>Wallace</i> is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision--maybe a dangerous one.
Richtel, Matt	<i>A Deadly Wandering: A Mystery, A Landmark Investigation, and the Astonishing Science of Attention in the Digital Age:</i> Draws on cutting-edge scientific findings regarding human attention to examine the impact of technology on people's lives through the story of college student Reggie Shaw, who killed two scientists while texting and driving.
Roach, Mary	<i>Replaceable You: Adventures in Human Anatomy:</i> Examines how medical science has used available materials to craft replacement parts for the human body over history and the current attempts to grow body parts from scratch using 3D printers and stem cells.
Saenz, Benjamin Alire	<i>The Inexplicable Logic of My Life:</i> Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it's senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal's not who he thought he was, who is he?
Salinger, J.D.	<i>Catcher in the Rye:</i> An adolescent boy, knowing he is about to be dropped by his school, spends three days and nights in New York City.
Sepetys, Ruta	<i>I Must Betray You:</i> Romania, 1989. Seventeen-year-old Cristian dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Living under a cruel dictatorship that governs by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves--or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom?
Shusterman, Neal	<i>Challenger Deep:</i> A captivating novel about mental illness that lingers long beyond the last page, Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. He is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. He is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. Caden Bosch is torn.
Slater, Dashka	<i>Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives it Changed:</i> When a high school student started a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes to make his friends laugh, he thought of it as "edgy" humor. Over time, the edge got sharper. Pretty soon, everyone knew. Ultimately no one in the small town of Albany, California, was safe from the repercussions of the account's discovery. Not the girls targeted by the posts. Not the boy who created the account. Not the group of kids who followed it. Not the adults--educators and parents--whose attempts to fix things too often made them worse. In the end, no one was laughing. And everyone was left asking: Where does

accountability end for online speech that harms? And what does accountability even mean?

Smith, Andrew

Grasshopper Jungle: Austin Szerba narrates the end of humanity as he and his best friend Robby accidentally unleash an army of giant, unstoppable bugs and uncover the secrets of a decades-old experiment gone terribly wrong. **Printz Honor Book 2015**

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath: John Steinbeck's classic novel about an Oklahoma farm family driven from their home and forced to travel to California during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Stevenson, Bryan

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship--and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Wein, Elizabeth

Code Name Verity: A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance - her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. As she gives her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy? **Printz Honor Book, 2013**

Woo, Ilyon

Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom: The remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave.

Zoboi, Ibi

Punching the Air: Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it. *Novel in verse*.