

June, 2026

Dear AP Biology Student,

I am delighted that you will be taking AP Biology next year. This is a fast-paced and rigorous course, but with early preparation and consistent effort, you will be well positioned for success.

The course includes an extensive curriculum with numerous laboratory investigations and 56 textbook chapters. Our assigned text, Biology (12th Edition) by Campbell and Reece, will be made available to you before summer break.

To help ease the workload during the school year, you are assigned six chapters for summer reading. You will be assessed on this material at the start of the year, and this assessment will count toward your first marking period grade.

Biology is a rapidly evolving field, and textbooks can quickly become outdated. While the textbook will provide structure for your studies, I strongly encourage you to supplement your learning by reading current scientific literature. Sources such as The New York Times (Science Times), Nature, Science, and Scientific American will help you stay informed about new discoveries and real-world applications of biology.

To succeed in this course, develop strong study habits: keep up with readings, stay engaged in class, and take thorough notes. Exploring science news and related readings will also enrich our class discussions and deepen your understanding.

Please join the AP Biology Summer Assignment Google Classroom using the code: [blddj2k](#). This will provide access to a digital version of the textbook and additional resources.

I look forward to working with you in September.

Sincerely,



Mrs. A. Thadani

AP BIOLOGY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

1. Required Reading and Study (Chapters 51–56)

Study Chapters 51–56 in the *Campbell Biology (12th Edition)* textbook. For best results, follow this sequence:

a. Read each chapter

- A digital version of the textbook will be available via Google Classroom
- Class code: **blddj2k**

b. Review lecture notes

- Use the AP Biology website for additional support and clarification

c. Access supplementary materials

- Chapter slides and other resources are available through Google Classroom

d. Review chapter summaries

- Focus on key concepts at the end of each chapter

e. Complete end-of-chapter quizzes

- Use these to check your understanding

You will be tested on Chapters 51–56 during the first week of school. This assessment will count toward your first marking period grade.

2. Independent Reading Requirement

You are also required to read **at least one book from each of the two provided lists:**

- **One fiction book**
- **One non-fiction book**

See lists on the following pages.

FICTION

Andromeda Strain, Michael Crichton. 1969. New York: Knopf, Random House.
A returning space capsule releases an alien virus on the earth.

Contact, Carl Sagan. 1985. Contact deals with the theme of contact between humanity and a more technologically advanced, extraterrestrial life form. It ranked No. 7 on the 1985 bestseller list.

Chromosome 6, Robin Cook. 1992. Chromosome 6 is a prophetic thriller that challenges the medical ethics of genetic manipulation and cloning in the jungles of equatorial Africa, where one mistake could bridge the gap between man and ape--and forever change the genetic map of our existence.

Clan of the Cave Bear, The, Jean Auel. 1980. New York: Crown.
Human evolution at the level of the Cro-Magnon / Neanderthal junction.

Boys from Brazil, The, Ira Levin. 1976. New York: Random House.
Dr. Mengele attempts to produce cloned copies of Adolf Hitler, but in order to do so he must reproduce the environmental factors which made Hitler the evil genius that he was; deals intelligently with the fashionable subject of cloning.

Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton. 1990. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
This fictional account of a theme park featuring dinosaurs cloned from DNA in mosquitoes fossilized in amber lends itself to many interesting discussions of genetic engineering, ethical issues, and chaos.

NON-FICTION

Fabric of the Cosmos, Brian Green
This book chases the elusive unifying theory by exploring the properties of nature's most fundamental particle – a miniscule, vibrating, string of energy. It also explains quantum physics, the theory of relativity and the space-time continuum.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot, Henrietta Lacks, as HeLa, is known to present-day scientists for her cells from cervical cancer. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells were taken without her knowledge and still live decades after her death. Cells descended from her may weigh more than 50M metric tons.

The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution & Future of the Human Animal, Jared Diamond. We human beings share 98 percent of our genes with chimpanzees. Yet humans are the dominant species on the planet -- having founded civilizations and religions, developed intricate and diverse forms of communication, learned science, built cities, and created breathtaking works of art -- while chimps remain animals concerned primarily with the basic necessities of survival. What is it about that two percent difference in DNA that has created such a divergence between evolutionary cousins? In this fascinating, provocative, passionate, funny, endlessly entertaining work, renowned Pulitzer prize-winning author and scientist Jared Diamond explores how the extraordinary human animal, in a

remarkably short time, developed the capacity to rule the world . . . and the means to irrevocably destroy it.

The Emperor of All Maladies, Siddhartha Mukherjee. The Emperor of All Maladies is a magnificent, profoundly humane “biography” of cancer—from its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to cure, control, and conquer it to a radical new understanding of its essence.

The Hot Zone, Richard Preston. This work of nonfiction is more terrifying than any sci-fi nightmare. A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, DC. There is no cure. In a few days, 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic “hot” virus. The Hot Zone tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their “crashes” into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, The Hot Zone proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.

Genome: the Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters, Matt Ridley. The human genome, the complete set of genes housed in twenty-three pairs of chromosomes, is nothing less than an autobiography of our species.

The Singularity is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology, Ray Kurzweil
A thrilling foray into the future, he envisions an event—the “singularity”—in which technological change becomes so rapid and so profound that our bodies and brains will merge with our machines.

Prepare to do a presentation for your classmates of the books you read.