

Summer Reading Expectations
AP Language and Composition
Sophomores 2026-2027

Students are required to read and annotate the required novels over the summer. Students will complete a graded, in-class writing assignment on the summer reading during the first week of classes. The best annotations are those that underline key passages AND synthesize (make notes) in the margin about the significance of the underlined passages.

On the first day of class you are expected to come properly prepared, which means *reading the novels in full and annotating as you read*. Strong annotations will make completing the in-class writing assignment significantly easier and will support thoughtful participation in discussion.

As you read, consider annotating the following:

- **Setting:** How do time and place influence the characters, mood, or events?
- **Character development:** How do characters change over time? What motivates them? How do their relationships and conflicts shape them?
- **Conflicts:** Identify internal (within a character) and external (between characters or forces) conflicts. How do they build and resolve?
- **Key moments:** Mark scenes with high tension, turning points, or important decisions.
- **Important quotes:** Underline and synthesize in the margin passages you deem significant, and note why they matter.
- **Literary devices and figurative language**
- **Patterns:** Look for repeated images, ideas, or situations. What might they suggest?
- **Themes:** What big ideas are emerging (identity, justice, family, power, morality)?
- **Questions/confusions:** Note anything unclear, surprising, or complex.
- **Connections:** Make connections across all three novels.

Students should come to class ready to use their annotations to complete in-class assignments and engage in discussion.

If you have questions about your summer reading expectations, please email Mrs. Pixley (jpixley@vmahs.org).

AP Language and Composition Book List

REQUIRED TEXTS	
For your AP Language and Composition course, discussions and writing assignments will be based on the works listed below. Each student must have her own copy of each required work for annotating. In order to facilitate class discussions, please purchase these editions.	
BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR	ISBN
<i>The Elements of Eloquence</i> by Mark Forsyth	ISBN-13: 978-1785781728
<i>The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration</i> by Isabel Wilkerson	ISBN-13: 978-0679763888
<i>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft</i> by Stephen King	ISBN-13: 978-1982159375
<i>A Pocket Style Manual, 10th edition</i> edited by Diana Hacker	ISBN-13: 978-1319413019

SUMMER READING TEXTS	
You should read and annotate <u>all</u> of the texts below. You will be completing a writing assignment in class during the first week of classes.	
REQUIRED SUMMER READING	ISBN
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	ISBN-13: 978-0743273565
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne	ISBN-13: 978-0804171571
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> by Lorraine Hansberry	ISBN-13: 978-0679755333