

2026 AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Lang and Comp! This is your last summer reading assignment, Woot, Woot!! Please make sure you follow all the steps below and arrive prepared to learn this fall.

The small print:

1. All work is due by 7:55am on the first day of school. All responses will be submitted through Turnitin. The book should be with you the first day of class. I will have the Schoology page ready for you by August 12th, the day of the High School Open House.
2. There is NO WAY you can reasonably do this all the night before it is due! Pace yourself. If you read the book in June or early July, you can enjoy the act of discovery as you run across resources that just “click” with your topic!
3. Follow **MLA format**. You are to submit your writing to Turnitin **before** the first day of class; **handwritten work will not receive points**. Penalties will be given for each day it is late. **REMEMBER YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD!!!**
4. Make sure you **document** the sources you used when following the steps in CHORES. (Hyperlinks are fine.)

Questions or issues? Contact me through my school email: cathybrookman@tasd.education. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Now for the fun stuff! 😊

Step 1: Check out the novel *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson.

Step 2: Read the book and annotate. You can post-it or write notes in your journal. Keep track of the big issues as you have previously done. You should easily have one page per chapter.

Consider:

- a. The author’s main theme (include support for it from the book)
- b. The author’s writing style (think diction, syntax, tone, organization, examples)
- c. Areas you question or disagree with the author’s points (theme)
- d. Areas you agree with the author’s points. (theme)

Step 3: Gather information from the following outside areas to round out your reading. Think **CHORES**. Meet a requirement from each area. Make sure you are detailed and LABEL each section!

a. **CURRENT EVENTS:** Find an article or news item that relates to something in the book. Read it and tie it into that aspect of the book. Stay away from Inquirer types of articles-they need to be credible news sources and should be from the past year. Include the author, article title, publication date, and source (magazine, website, or newspaper title) with this paragraph. Save a link to the article or copy and paste the article into Google docs in case I ask for it. We will use them in class. One paragraph.

b. **HISTORY:** Connect an important aspect of your book to something historical (people, places, events, wars...) and describe the significance. Identify where you learned about this initially (class, dinner table, online) One paragraph.

c. **OBSERVATION:** This is where you get to look at it from your own experience or understanding. What is your opinion? Has this information affected you, shaped your thinking, or made you ask more questions? Do you connect with an idea or event from a personal standpoint? One paragraph.

d. **READING:** Tie the topic into some other work of literature. You can substitute a READING aspect for this step-a song, music video, comic, printed cartoon, or meme. Identify where you ran across this source (social media, YouTube, Spotify, etc....) and the author/performer. Explain the connection to an aspect of the book. Paste it in your document (keep it small!) One paragraph.

e. **ENTERTAINMENT:** Watch a TV show, documentary, or motion picture film that relates to something in the novel. Describe the plot and show how it connects to some aspect of your book. It is okay if the show takes a comedic or satirical approach. Include the title and date of publication as well as location (movie theatre, Netflix, Youtube). No shorter than 20 minutes if you choose an online video or sitcom type show. One paragraph.

f. **SUMMARY:** Summarize the book. What is the author's "life lesson?" How does the author develop the theme? Summary is one paragraph and is objective. Write a second paragraph in which you detail the development of the theme throughout the book.

**** For Reference: ***A paragraph is a group of related sentences that work together to present a thorough approach to a topic. It includes a topic sentence that clearly identifies the purpose of the paragraph, multiple supporting sentences that give examples, including direct quotes or specific detail for support, and some level of analysis to show how you have thought through the implications of the idea. The concluding sentence helps the reader understand the decision you have come to regarding your topic in the paragraph. This should easily be 5-7 quality sentences.