

Advanced Composition Honors

Summer Reading

2026-2027

For your summer reading, you will select and read one nonfiction book from the options below. You will be assessed on your knowledge of the books during the first two weeks of school.

Please select and read one nonfiction book from the following list:

<p><i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama</p> <p>ISBN: 1524763136</p> <p>Description: In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms.</p>	<p><i>Let Your Mind Run: A Memoir of Thinking My Way to Victory</i> by Deena Kastor</p> <p>ISBN: 1524760757</p> <p>Description: Deena Kastor was a star youth runner with tremendous promise, yet her career almost ended after college, when her competitive method—run as hard as possible, for fear of losing -- fostered a frustration and negativity and brought her to the brink of burnout. On the verge of quitting, she took a chance and moved to the high altitudes of Alamosa, Colorado, where legendary coach Joe Vigil had started the first professional distance-running team. There she encountered the idea that would transform her running career: the notion that changing her thinking—shaping her mind to be more encouraging, kind, and resilient—could make her faster than she’d ever imagined possible.</p>
<p><i>Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike</i> by Phil Knight</p> <p>ISBN: 1501135929</p> <p>Description: Knight, the man behind the swoosh, has always been a mystery. In <i>Shoe Dog</i>, he tells his story at last. At twenty-four, Knight decides that rather than work for a big corporation, he will create something all his own, new, dynamic, different. He details the many risks he encountered, the crushing setbacks, the ruthless competitors and hostile bankers—as well as his many thrilling triumphs. Above all, he recalls the relationships that formed the heart and soul of Nike, with his former track coach, the irascible and charismatic Bill Bowerman, and with his first employees, a ragtag group of misfits and savants who quickly became a band of swoosh-crazed brothers.</p>	<p><i>The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun</i> By Gretchen Rubin</p> <p>ISBN: 0062888749</p> <p>Description: Gretchen Rubin had an epiphany one rainy afternoon in the unlikelyst of places: a city bus. “The days are long, but the years are short,” she realized. “Time is passing, and I’m not focusing enough on the things that really matter.” At that moment, she decided to dedicate a year to her happiness project. Rubin chronicles her adventures during the twelve months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Among other things, she found that novelty and challenge are powerful sources of happiness; that money can help buy happiness, when spent wisely; that outer order contributes to inner calm; and that the very smallest of changes can make the biggest difference.</p>

Suggested/Optional Task

While you are not required to complete annotations or an assignment for this summer reading, in order to ensure that you remember and understand the content of the books, your Advanced Composition teachers suggest that you annotate or take notes about the following while reading:

- How does the author tell his/her story? In other words, does the author use descriptive details, flashback, dialogue, interviews, personal anecdotes, etc.? What else does the author use to tell his/her story?
- How does the author organize the book?

Annotating or taking notes while reading your books is optional but strongly recommended!

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HAPPY READING!

If you have any questions about this summer reading assignment, please contact Mrs. Hoff (hoffr@fultonschools.org).