

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Assignment 2026

For your summer assignment, you will read and annotate two books: one nonfiction and one fiction. You will be assessed on your knowledge and analysis of the texts during the first two weeks of the 2026-2027 school year.

Required Reading: Two books of your choice, **one fiction and one nonfiction**. These books are chosen to inform you about various topics relevant in modern America. You can choose to think deeply about ONE topic by reading both books about that same issue, or you can mix and match and read a nonfiction book about one topic and a fiction book about another. The choice is yours. We will discuss how both fiction and nonfiction inform us about the modern world and the ways in which writers can communicate an argument in both genres.

Required Task: As you read, make annotations (suggestions on the following page). You can annotate on the pages of the book, with post-its throughout the text, or by keeping a reading journal in a separate space.

Topic: The Opiate Epidemic

Fiction: <i>Demon Copperhead</i> Barbara Kingsolver ISBN: 978-0063251984	Nonfiction: <i>Dopesick</i> Beth Macy ISBN: 978-0316551304
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Topic: Immigration

Fiction: <i>American Dirt</i> Jeanine Cummins ISBN: 978-1250209788	Nonfiction: <i>Solito</i> Javier Zamora ISBN: 978-0593498088
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Topic: Modern Native American Life

Fiction: <i>There There</i> Tommy Orange ISBN: 978-0525436140	Nonfiction: <i>Rez Life</i> David Treuer ISBN: 978-0802120823
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Topic: The Prison System

Fiction: <i>Chain Gang All Stars</i> Nana Kwame Adjeh-Brenyah ISBN: 978-0802120823	Nonfiction: <i>Just Mercy</i> Bryan Stevenson ISBN: 978-0593133934
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Topic: American Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Fiction: <i>Homegoing</i> Yaa Gyasi ISBN: 978-1101971062	Nonfiction: <i>How the Word is Passed</i> Clint Smith ISBN: 978-0316492928
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Ideas for Annotations:

- Observe and consider the structure of each book. How does the organization aid in unfolding the argument of each text?
- What is fiction uniquely capable of?
- How is fiction still an argument? Can you determine the main message of the book and its supporting claims? What allows the writer to communicate those claims?
- What is nonfiction uniquely capable of?
- Can you determine the main message of the nonfiction book and its supporting claims? What allows the writer to communicate those claims?
- What do you notice about characterization and/or writer voice? What moments in the text allow us to see characterization and voice most clearly?
- For both books, fiction and nonfiction, look for intentional writer choices: use of metaphor or comparison, use of contrast, dialogue, imagery and description, repeated images or motifs, etc. How are these choices used to convey an argument to the reader?

If you have any questions about this summer reading assignment, please contact
Ms. Mitchell (mitchellk5@fultonschools.org).