

AP Language Summer 2018 Work

Summer Reading and Writing

Dear AP Language students and families,

The Modern English School Secondary English Department wishes you all a relaxing and fun summer break. In an effort to provide you with a summer reading assignment that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests.

You are to read **two** of the books on the Summer 2018 Reading Lists this summer. Of course, we encourage you to use the free time afforded to you over the summer to read as many books as you can! Share your thoughts and reactions to your reading with your parents and friends. Great literature should be discussed and shared.

For the two books you read this summer, you are to process each book in a written way that will be useful to you when you return in September. Processing texts is personal and may include taking notes, using post-its, writing quotes, drawing images, creating symbols, writing summaries and responses, journaling, using graphic organizers, etc. You may choose to process your books in any way that works for you, but it must be something tangible that you can turn in on the very first day you return to school for your first homework grade. Each book needs separate processing tools.

In addition to the written processing tools you will be turning in for a grade, we will be using your texts to complete our first two and a half weeks of school activities. We will complete an in-class essay, create projects, present orally and engage in many other activities. Therefore, it is imperative that you read your two books closely and carefully. Make sure your processing tools are as thorough and as detailed as possible so that they are able to assist you in these endeavors.

One oral activity that will be graded will be a “pitch meeting.” You must prepare and present a 3-5 minute “pitch” in which you imagine that this book has not yet been published and you must “pitch” it to a potential publisher. You will be called on during the first few weeks of class to “pitch” your book either to your teacher individually or to the entire class. This meeting may take place during class or you may be asked to come during a break. You must be ready to pitch at any time. Once you have given your pitch you will be asked questions about the text you read. You may be asked about one or both of your texts, so be prepared.

Have a great summer, and enjoy this opportunity to read wonderful books! We look forward to discussing your books with you in September.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adrienne Hawthorne

Head of English Department for the American Section

****Summary of important information:**

- 1) Read two books closely.
- 2) Process each book in a written way.
- 3) You will be turning in your written processing tools the very first day you return to school in September for your first homework grade.
- 4) The first two and a half weeks of school will be devoted to working with these books in a variety of ways for a variety of grades. Be prepared to verbally “pitch” your **two** texts.

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading List 2018

1. **Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men against the Sea*.** Back cover description: In 1991, as Halloween nears, a cold front moves south from Canada, a hurricane swirls over Bermuda, and an intense storm builds over the Great Lakes...forces converge to create...a 100-year tempest that catches the North Atlantic fishing fleet off guard and unprotected.
2. **Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*:** A Personal Account of the Mt Everest Disaster. —A harrowing tale of the perils of high-altitude climbing, a story of bad luck and worse judgment and heart breaking heroism (*People*). The stuff of classic adventure tales...
3. **Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics*:** A rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything. Highly acclaimed, this book won numerous, highly prestigious prizes...considered readable, interesting, ground-breaking, and dazzling by critics.
4. **Woolfe, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*:** Surprisingly, this long essay about society and art sexism is one of Woolfe's most accessible works. Woolfe, a major modernist writer and critic, takes us on an erudite, yet conversational--and completely entertaining--walk around the history of women in writing, smoothly comparing the architecture of sentences by the likes of William Shakespeare and Jane Austen, all the while lampooning the chauvinistic state of university education in the England of her day.
5. **Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*.** An autobiography of 1950s childhood in Pittsburgh combines the child's sense of wonder with adult's intelligence and is written in some of the finest prose that exists in contemporary American writing...a joyous ode to [Dillard's] childhood
6. **Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*.** A psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages...listed in a Library of Congress survey as among the ten most influential books in America as —a book that made a difference in your life. May be of special interest to students who liked Elie Wiesel's *Night*.
7. **Markham, Beryl. *West with the Night*.** Moving memoir of early 20th Century woman aviator in East Africa.
8. **Sheff, David. *Beautiful Boy*.** A memoir about a father's struggle with his son's meth addiction. Gives insight into the lack of treatment and options for this kind of addiction. Includes research and personal narration.

9. **Jeannette Walls. *The Glass Castle*.** Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

Fictionalized but largely autobiographical:

10. **Tim O'Brien. *The Things They Carried*.** They carried malaria tablets, love letters, 28-pound mine detectors, dope, illustrated bibles, each other. And if they made it home alive, they carried unrelenting images of a nightmarish war that history is only beginning to absorb. Since its first publication, *The Things They Carried* has become an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic work of American literature, and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three.