

AP Language and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition for the 2022-23 school year! We'll spend a great year together reading a wide variety of historical and current non-fiction along with some classical American fiction. To start the course off right, every student needs to read at least one non-fiction book during the summer.

This list includes a range of topics, themes, and ideas. Choose a book you care about and enjoy. Don't waste a day of summer reading something you don't enjoy. Just choose something else from this list or contact me with another great idea.

Looking for more this summer? Find a podcast you enjoy, listen to a TED talk on a topic you're curious about, or read. Read some more. Read a little more after that. Read at the park, read when you need a reason to get away from your cousins who have stayed *just a little too long*. Just read and learn. Then keep reading. Read, think, learn, grow. It'll be worth it.

The book options are listed on the back of this page. **Please check out or purchase a copy of your selected book. While only one book is required, more are certainly encouraged.**

Have questions? Email them to Mrs. Byrne at ashleyby@spokaneschools.org.

Your Assignment:

Please come to the first day of school with thorough responses, preferably typed and ready to submit to Teams, for the following questions. You will share your work with a small group and then turn in your writing sample. This is your first collected assignment for AP English Language and Composition and will be scored based on completion and evidence of thoughts that extend beyond the superficial, the shallow or the obvious. This is *analysis*, not summary. The work you turn in should reflect your reading, reflection, and ability to present complex thoughts. As a general rule of thumb, a response of 300-400 words per question is ideal.

1. What is the primary purpose of the book?
2. Who is the primary audience?
3. What is the significance of the title?
4. What is the author's claim?
 - A. Is there more than one obvious claim?
 - B. Did you find yourself agreeing or disagreeing with the claim?
 - C. What type of evidence does the author use to establish his/her claim? (Scientific proof, anecdote, opinion, historical facts, statistics, emotional appeal?)

5. Consider the *rhetorical triangle*: Authors use logos (logic/facts), ethos (ethical appeal) and/or pathos (emotion) to persuade. Describe which of these techniques this author relies on most heavily. Why?

6. What is the author's [point of view](#)? *First person, third person limited or omniscient*. What is the effect of that choice? How does it impact the storytelling?

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7. How would you summarize the author's style/and tone? Is it formal and scholarly? Is it familiar and casual? Bitter? Angry? Harsh? Objective or biased? How can you tell? Provide an example that shows this.
8. Describe an important event or passage from the book—one that stuck with you after you finished reading. This is usually the one you find yourself sharing with others.
9. Describe one effect the book had on your beliefs, thoughts or preconceived ideas. That is, describe a place in the book that supported or challenged some belief.
10. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Non-Fiction Book Options

*If the book has an asterisk, it is available for check out from the NC book room. **Please go see Wendi in the bookroom and check this out ASAP.** All other books must be checked out from the public library or purchased at your own expense.

1. Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.

2. Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"—the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

3. *Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book tells their hidden story.

4. Educated by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University.

5. *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr

"Is Google making us stupid?" When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net's bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply?