

AP Language and Composition©: Summer Assignment

Welcome Class of 2025!

AP Language and Composition© is a wonderful opportunity to earn college credit during your high school years but preparing for the vigorous pace of the course is key before delving into the course in September. To get you started, I've included some Summer Reading material that will introduce you to some of the authors we'll cover in the narrative non-fiction genre. Often, students will find their Summer Reading material helpful as a reference for the AP test itself.

Some of the material will be used for your first essay that we'll discuss in September and you'll be given an open notebook for the texts as well. Only handwritten notebook entries will be accepted.

To make the challenge of Summer Reading easier, consider **setting a goal** of how many pages you plan to read in a day. For example, if I want to read the book within two weeks, I would divide the number of pages of the books by 14 days, and make the resulting number of pages my reading goal. Track what you read in your notebook each day and write down the page numbers you are reflecting on.

Then, complete the assignment below.

What will I be reading this summer? 2023 List of Required Readings:

There are 4 books that you will read: **A Nonfiction Novel** and **3 shorter nonfiction texts** listed below. Additionally, please read the **essay** by **George Orwell** called, *The Politics of the English Language* which we will discuss on the first days of class. A link to the text can be found here:

["The Politics of the English Language" by George Orwell](#)

~AND~

Choose **one** of the three nonfiction novels here:

- *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander

~AND~

Then, read **all of the following non-fiction texts:**

- *One Writer's Beginnings* by Eudora Welty. This book is divided into 3 parts, which were lectures given by the author at Harvard University about her childhood education in the

South during the Reconstruction Era. Eudora Welty was a Pulitzer Prize winning short story writer. This book will be used for your first essay.

- ***Slouching Toward Bethlehem* by Joan Didion** This is a collection of essays written by Didion's observations about her life in California during the 1960s. We'll look at Didion's writing style and try to emulate the structure of it.
- ***The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin.** This book was written in 1963 during the emergence of the Civil Rights movement. This book will also be used for one of your writing assignments.

After the exam in May, we will be preparing you for the NYS Regents Exam in June. It's recommended that you purchase the **Barron's English Regents Power Pack** so you can try some practice tests in review sessions.

Assignment #1: Keep a journal. Use a composition notebook with and separate your notes for each book. You may only use your notes from your journal for the open notebook test, which will be given at the end of the first full week of school.

A. What will be checked in your notebook:

- Summarize any major points the author makes as you read.
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance to the major points. Be selective. You may use these quotes for essays later in the month.
- Indicate what issues the non-fiction book addresses and what themes emerge as you read it.
- Try to take note of the author's writing style. For example, does the author use anecdotes; descriptions; categorizations; comparisons; definition; figurative language; etc.

Assignment #2: The One Pager. After you complete your handwritten journal, write a one-page composition (300-500 word essay) on a Google Doc (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced with the heading) with your thoughts about how either *The Zookeeper's Wife*, *The New Jim Crow*, or *In Cold Blood* relates to issues in the world today. **Please do not summarize the text in your writing composition.**

How will this be used in the Fall?

Your written response and your ability to discuss it in class will be one of the first impressions I have of your writing style currently. More details will be provided in the first week of class as to how to submit this assignment on to your Google Classroom page.

****Every student is expected to complete these assignments and they will be due at the end of the first week of school.****

Note: Here are some local places to buy your books besides ordering it online.

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Greenlight Bookstore** 686 Fulton St, Brooklyn, NY 11217
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **Troubled Sleep**, 129 6th Avenue, Brooklyn (used bookstore/cheaper)
- **HousingWorks**. The one on 5th Avenue in Park Slope has a used bookstore with some of the book names on your booklist right now.
- **The Strand Bookstore**, It's on the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan. This is the most iconic bookstore in New York City with both old (cheaper) and new books. Well worth the trip!
- **Now, find a great spot to read outdoors!** My favorite places to read are the Brooklyn Bridge Park in DUMBO, the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, Domino Park, and Prospect Park.
- **Too hot to read outside?** Try the Brooklyn Public Library; The Central Branch has a small cafe with seats on the first floor. You might also be able to borrow your required reading there too. Ask the Reference Library where the Summer Reading books are located.

If you have any questions, feel free to send me an email at ulgen.m@stsaviour.org addressed to Mrs. Ulgen. In the heading, just write:

RE: Summer Reading AP Lang.

Enjoy your summer!