

## AP Language and Composition© Summer Reading 2024-2025



Photo taken at the Edgar A. Poe Museum in Philadelphia

Fun fact- Poe made a living as a freelance nonfiction writer for various magazines before becoming a famous Gothic Horror Literature writer.

[Click Here to view Poe's Non-fiction Essays](#)

Welcome Juniors to the AP Language and Composition© course! This year, I am looking forward to sharing with you books that explore fascinating topics and will be a starting point for us to share our own perspectives in class discussions. The purpose of this summer reading adventure is to help you:

- Improve your reading skills
- Increase your vocabulary
- Prepare you for the Regents exam and the AP Language and Composition© test
- Enjoy reading and discover new interests and genres

In this course, we'll explore a wide range of content and writing styles from mostly creative nonfiction texts to inspire your own writing pieces. As you read, you'll be completing a handwritten journal recording details and responses. This journal will count as the first major grade of the year. We'll also dedicate our first two weeks of class to discussion of the stories and they will appear on the first exam.

### Guidelines and Suggestions:

- Give yourself ample time to complete the readings and assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to try to complete this assignment.
- Try mapping out your plan of action in a planner, calendar, or any source you can easily refer back to.

- Decide when and how you will read: On the subway as you go to meet friends? At the beach when you're relaxing? On a flight? With your morning cup of coffee? For a certain amount of time each night before bed? At the park on a beautiful day?
- Having a strategy will help you get through the texts. On the calendar count up the days when you know you will have anywhere between 20-40 minutes to read.
- Calculate how many pages (or chapters) you will need to read per day. 10 to 50 pages is doable. More than that can be overly ambitious.
- Don't forget to include days when you will dedicate time to writing your assignment. You may complete the assignment as you are reading the book or after you have finished it in its entirety.

### Summer Reading Texts

1. ***One Writer's Beginnings* by Eudora Welty.** This memoir 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.

2. **"A Worn Path" by Eudora Welty.** (15 minute audio book; 8 pages) This is the short story she is best known for about race relations in the South after the Civil War. I highly recommend listening to this audiobook with the text to get a feel for her Southern dialect and her long winding sentence structure before you read her memoir.

[Click Here for the Text of "A Worn Path"](#)

[Click Here for the Audio of "A Worn Path"](#)

3. ***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.

4. ***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

### Optional recommended reading:

- *On Writing Well: A Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William Zinsser
- *Tell it Slant: Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction* by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola
- BBC series (viewable on YouTube), "Ways of Seeing"  
[Click Here for Episode 1 "Ways of Seeing"](#)

**Writing Assignment:** This assignment can be handwritten (preferred) or you can use Canva to keep a digital notebook (don't pay for any features, just use the free templates). If you choose to handwrite your work, keep one small, organized journal (no five subject notebooks necessary) where you will hand write and record your responses. Be sure to clearly label each response. You should **create a section of your journal for each prompt and clearly label which sections refer to One Writer's Beginnings, and which sections refer to A Worn Path, Slouching Toward Bethlehem and The Fire Next Time.**

- **Setting:** Based on clues from the text, try to determine WHERE and WHEN each book takes place. Write down five hints from the text that suggest the time and place of the story (example: The descriptions of the surroundings, the way people dress or speak, clothes worn for that time of year, etc.)
- **Character Study:** Select three characters from each book. Trace their development throughout the novel and address the following questions: Who are they when we first meet them? Describe their appearance, their actions, and their thoughts. What challenges or conflicts do they face? How do they change and what is the cause? Be sure to indicate page numbers where these important details occur.
- **Quotations:** Record ten quotations from each text and indicate the meaning or significance of each. Why does this quote stand out to you? How is it important to the story?
- **Personal Reaction/Review:** Write a three to five paragraph personal reaction to each story/essay. What have you learned from the character's experiences? Would you recommend this book to a friend? Explain why or why not. Be specific in your reasoning.

**Due Date:** Your journal is due the second day of school. If you have any questions regarding the assignment, you can email me over the summer at [ulgen.m@stsaviour.org](mailto:ulgen.m@stsaviour.org) . I am looking forward to meeting you. Have a great summer!

If you plan on buying the book instead of borrowing it from the library, shop locally:

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Greenlight Bookstore** 686 Fulton St, Brooklyn, NY 11217
- **Troubled Sleep**, 129 6th Avenue, Brooklyn (used bookstore/cheaper)
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **The Strand Bookstore**, the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan