

AP Language and Composition: Summer Assignment

Congratulations Class of 2024! Summer is upon us and it's time to relax with a good book or two. I've compiled a book list where you will have a **choice** of a fiction **and** two nonfiction books. Choose something that you've never read before that will challenge and engage you. Consider the concurrent themes presented in both types of literature. If you aim for a similar theme, it may be easier to write about later.

*Then, complete the handwritten assignment below.

What will I be reading this summer?

Choose two books: **one fiction** and **two nonfiction** books. Additionally, you will be required to read **an essay** by **George Orwell** called, *The Politics of the English Language*.

2022 List of Required Readings:

Fiction:

- *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill

~AND~

Choose two Nonfiction: Try to pair them thematically so it will be easier to discuss them both.

- *One Writer's Beginnings* by Eudora Welty
- *Slouching Toward Bethlehem* by Joan Didion
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard
- *Men Explain Things To Me* by Rebecca Solnit

Assignment #1: Keep a journal for each text.

A. **For the fictional novel.** Record the following:

- key plot events
- Narrative point of view
- Conflicts
- Characters involved and their relationship with each other; their personality traits; how does the character change throughout the story.
- Two themes that the author develops.
- Literary devices, such as characterization, symbolism, setting, point of view, motif, irony, imagery, irony, etc. (There's many, many more so show what you know).
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance of each quotation.

B. For the non-fiction book.

- Summarize any major points the author makes.
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance to the major points.
- Indicate what issue the non-fiction book addresses and try to make connections to either another text or to issues you hear in the news.

Assignment #2: After you complete your handwritten journal, write a one-page composition (300-500 word essay) with a thoughtful response about what you've read on a Google Doc (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced with the heading). **Please do not summarize the text in your writing composition.** You may take a personal, creative, or academic approach in your response but it's important to demonstrate the thinking you did while you read.

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 your new English teacher will have of you. More details will be provided in the first week of class.

****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** in Fort Greene
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **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.