

2017-2018 Summer Reading for 11th grade AP Language and Composition

Assignment:

Read **one** book. The summer reading assignment is complex and will take thoughtful, concentrated time to complete, so schedule your reading early. The summer assignment (below) is due the first day you are scheduled to be present in my class. The purpose of this summer reading assignment is to get you to begin thinking about a writer's style, which will be very important to analysis in this course. In order to train yourself to become a reader/analyzer of writing style, you will read one book this summer. Note: As this is a college-level course, some of the books may contain adult language and/or content.

To help you read closely, carefully, and critically to prepare you for the writing assignments you will do on these books, you must annotate your chosen book.

1. In nonfiction reading, you will need to keep "pen in hand" and note significant aspects of the novel such as setting, setting changes, character development, interesting character and/or narrator quotes, vocabulary, and any obvious literary devices. Make sure to check the 9th and 10th grade terms for examples of literary devices. This means that at the end of each chapter (or significant transition), you should write a brief summary of what happens and how this plot development and any of the aspects mentioned above contribute to the central idea of the novel. Summaries will be handwritten.
2. After completion of these notes, use them to write a well-developed multiple paragraph essay to support your claim as to what is the overall central purpose of the novel. Consider what the author might have been trying to accomplish by writing the novel. Remember novels may contain multiple themes, and writers may be trying to accomplish purposes other than simply telling a story. The evidence you will use to support your claim will come directly from your summaries. Do not simply summarize the novel. In other words, do not tell the story of the novel. Assume I am very familiar with the novel, and you are proving to me you understand the bigger idea behind the writing and publication of the novel. Essay will be handwritten.

Remember, summaries and your essay are due the first day you are scheduled to be present in class. After that, a standard reading assessment will be given August 11, 2017.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend –Laura Hillenbrand

Endurance –Alfred Lansing

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn –Betty Smith

The Glass Castle –Jeanette Walls

This Boy's Life –Tobias Wolff

Dear students,

The *College Board Course Description for AP English Language and Composition* describes this course as a college-level class for juniors which "engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes" with careful

attention given to audience and purpose, as well as the relation of audience and purpose to each other.

To clarify—writing is putting thought on paper. Writing is a process. The only way to become a better musician, athlete... or writer is to practice your sport or art. There is a Chinese proverb that states: “Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.” The principal idea here is that we learn together. I am merely a guide to help you find your own writing voice. In this course, we will talk to each other about writing. And, most importantly, we will write about writing. Essentially, these “talks” (often referred to as “Socratic dialogs”) and reading/writing exercises serve as the fundamentals of our class/sport/art.

It is reasonable to expect you to know the literary terms introduced to Moody High in 9th and 10th grade. As a college-level advanced class, we should be able to have classroom discussions that already acknowledge some previous instruction of these terms. (If you are new to Moody High, I encourage you to look at the 9th and 10th grade lists posted on the summer reading section of Moody’s website.) The terms are an on-going process in Moody’s English department, and this class will add to these terms during the course of the school year.

It is my hope that you are right now reading beyond the initial “assignment” portion of this document. I expect you to learn about language, read, and write in this course. I hope this what you expect in an English class as well. I sincerely look forward to our future discussions,

Ms. S. T. Tidwell, Moody High
AP Language and Composition