Dear AP student,

Thank you for planning to take our AP English Language and Composition course in the fall of 2015. This course is designed to substitute for a college composition course. Therefore, you will be required to read multifaceted texts with increased understanding as well as to enrich your prose in order to communicate your ideas effectively to mature audiences.

With the purpose of preparing you for our academic discussions when you return to school, you are expected to keep a Reading Log and develop Discussion Questions from, at least, two (2) of the respected books listed below.

The Reading Log and Discussion Questions:

1. Read the texts (books) aesthetically (for its effect on you and/or the intended audience).

2. Create a Reading Log that works for you. [Research, if needed, various “Reading Log” structures]

3. Please include textual details that you notice and your comments about the author’s purpose, intended audience, usage of rhetoric (diction, tone, imagery, and figurative language, syntax,…)

4. For each text you read, create at least three (3) discussion questions. Develop questions that may…
   - help you with your understanding
   - generate multiple interpretations
   - clarify the author’s purpose and the author’s word choice
   … and so forth

Please feel free to email me at kkitche3@houstonisd.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Katherine Kitchen

Charles H. Milby High School
**AP English Language & Composition Reading Recommendations**

**Autobiography / Memoir**

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *Wait Till Next Year.* (Pulitzer author about childhood and baseball)

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays With Morrie.* (Dying teacher and life-long student)

McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes.* (Poverty, starvation, and exuberance in depression Ireland)

Ashe, Arthur. *Days of Grace.* (Ashe’s personal struggles with prejudice and AIDS)

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy.* (Life to age 19 in the deep south)

Griffin, John Howard. *Black Like Me.* (Eyewitness history by white man who becomes black)

Karr, Mary. *The Liar’s Club.* (Poetic insight into one of the ugliest places on earth)

Ashe, Arthur. *Days of Grace.* (Ashe’s personal struggles with prejudice and AIDS)

Drakulic, Slavenka. *Café Europa.* (Idiosyncratic look at westernized ex-communist countries)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy’s Life.* (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the ‘50’s)

Wideman, John Edgar. *Brothers and Keepers.* (One a professor, the other an inmate)

Cheng, Nien. *Life and Death in Shanghai.* (Imprisonment, resistance, justice)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life.* (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the ‘50’s)

McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes.* (Poverty, starvation, and exuberance in depression Ireland)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life.* (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the ‘50’s)

Ashe, Arthur. *Days of Grace.* (Ashe’s personal struggles with prejudice and AIDS)

Karr, Mary. *The Liar’s Club.* (Poetic insight into one of the ugliest places on earth)

Orwell, George. *Down and Out in Paris and London.* (Life as a tramp in Europe)

Harper, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road.* (Account of her rise from poverty to prominence)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life.* (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the ‘50’s)

Dawson, George. *Life is So Good.* (101 year old recounts life in context of 20th century)

Moss, Barbara. *Change Me Into Zeus’ Daughter.* (Female version of *Angela’s Ashes*)

Conover, Ted. *Newjack.* (Chronicles a year as a prison guard at Sing-Sing)

Gunther, John. *Death Be Not Proud.* (Father tells of 17 year old’s struggle with brain tumor)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life.* (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the ‘50’s)

McCullough, David. *John Adams.* (Palace intrigue, scandal, and political brilliance)

Sheff, David. *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey through His Son's Addiction.* (Father’s anguish about his promising son’s meth addiction and its painful impact on the entire family is honest, raw, and full of information about the realities of drug addiction)

McCourt, Frank. *Angela’s Ashes.* (Poverty, starvation, and exuberance in depression Ireland)

Cassady, Bob. *Secrets of the Road.* (touchstone for 60’s)

Sobel, Dava. *Galileo’s Daughter.* (Father/daughter’s vastly different worlds)

Ingram, James. *The Color of Water.* (A tribute to his remarkable mother)

Gunderson, John. *Death Be Not Proud.* (Father tells of 17 year old’s struggle with brain tumor)

McCullough, David. *John Adams.* (Palace intrigue, scandal, and political brilliance)

Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage.* (Classic study of courageous lives)

Leblanc, Adrian Nicole. *Random Family.* (Four teens grow up in the Bronx)

Krakauer, Jon. *Under the Banner of Heaven.* (Violent religious extremism in our own country)

Gleick, James. *Isaac Newton.* (Comprehensive and intimate look at a great scientist)

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale* (author struggles to come to terms with his parents’ brutal past at
Auschwitz in this seminal graphic novel)

**Nature / Adventure / Science**

Kinder, Gary. *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*. (Engineer’s scheme to salvage $1 billion)

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm*. (Swordfish boat vs. Mother Nature)

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air*. (Everest climb gone wrong)

Larson, Erik. *Isaac's Storm*. (1900 hurricane still deadliest of all time)

Sobel, Dava. *Longitude*. (Thorniest scientific problem of 18th century is solved)

Werbach, Adam. *Act Now, Apologize Later*. (former Sierra Club pres. On steps to stop environment loss)

Fromm, Peter. *Indian Creek Chronicles*. (modern day *Walden* in Idaho wilderness)

Winchester, Simon. *The Map the Changed the World*. (obscure historical figure with strong impact on civ.)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird*. (practical advice for aspiring writers and life in general)


Roach, Mary. *Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers* (humorous, touching, and respectful look at how scientists utilize the human body)

Silverstein, Ken. *The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor* (boy's obsession with nuclear energy creates radioactive device with potential to spark environmental disaster in his community)

Menzel, Peter and Faith D'Aluisio. *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. (photo-chronicle of families around the world, the food they eat, and how uncontrollable forces like poverty, conflict and globalization affect our most elemental human need – food)


Melville, Greg. *Greasy Rider: Two Dudes, One Fry-Oil-Powered Car, and a Cross-Country Search for a Greener Future* (humorous road trip with the author and his college buddy in a converted 1980’s Mercedes from Vermont to California, and learn a little about how to be more eco-friendly along the way)

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden* (spends 26 months alone in the woods to "front the essential facts of life." )

Thompson, Gabriel. *Working in the Shadows: A Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won’t Do* (author works in various unskilled labor jobs providing engaging and gruesome details)

Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (story of a woman whose cancerous cells were developed in culture without her knowledge and became the HeLa line scientists used in researching some of the most important and astounding medical discoveries of the 20th century)

**Sports**

Remnick, David. *King of the World*. (Ali as racial and cultural hero in the 1950’s)

Reynolds, Bill. *Fall River Dreams*. (team searches for glory, town searches for soul)

Gildea, William. *Where the Game Still Matters*. (Last championship season in Indiana)

Millman, Chad. *The Odds*. (1 season, 3 gamblers in Las Vegas)

Dent, Jim. *The Junction Boys*. (10 days in training camp with Bear Bryant)

Lewis, Michael. *Moneyball*. (how Oakland A’s general manager is changing baseball)

Conroy, Pat. *My Losing Season*. (famous author on his senior year at The Citadel)

Riley, Rick. *Who’s Your Caddie?* (Sports Illustrated writer caddies for famous people)

McManus, James. *Positively 5th Street*. (World series of poker and murder in Vegas)

Shapiro, Michael. *The Last Great Season*. (Brooklyn Dodgers 1956 pennant race)

Powell, Robert Andrew. *We Own This Game*. (Pop Warner orld Series. (the scandal and damage caused)

**History / Politics / War**

Lacey, Robert and Danny Danziger. *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millenium* (facts and principles inside and outside Saxon England)
Winchester, Simon. *The Professor and The Madman.* (tale of compilation of Oxford Dictionary)
Ambrose, Stephen. *Undaunted Courage.* (Compelling story of Lewis and Clark expedition)
Tuban, Jeffrey. *A Vast Conspiracy.* (well researched account of Clinton tragedy)
Sontag, Sherry. *Blindman’s Bluff.* (story of American football in Miami run by race, politics, money)
Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization.* (just what the title suggests)
Herman, Arthur. *How the Scots Invented the Modern World.* (just what the title suggests)
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. *Notes on a Kidnapping.* (investigation behind Pablo Escobar’s terror)
Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Gems, and Steel.* (readable work of 13,000 years of history)
Larson, Erik. *The Devil and the White City.* (the Chicago World’s Fair and the first serial killer)
Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation.* (behind the scenes at the most popular restaurants)
Fleming, Thomas. *Duel.* (story of duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton)
Gladwell, Malcolm. *The Tipping Point.* (explains why changes in society occur suddenly)
Gourewhitch, Phillip. *We Wish to Inform You Tomorrow We Will be Killed with Our Families.* (Rwanda Genocide)
Menzies, Gavin. *1421: The Year China Discovered America.* (discovery before Columbus?)
Huggington, Arianna. *Pigs at the Trough.* (what to do about greedy CEOs and politicians)
Friedman, Thomas. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century* (advances in technology)
Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*
Tuchman, Barbara. *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century* (example of a single feudal lord to trace the history of the 14th century)
Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince* (A treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong central government)
Karlsen, Carol. *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England* (The status of women in colonial society affects the Salem witch accusations)
Epstein, Norrie. *Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard* (perspective on Shakespeare’s works through these sidelongts, interpretations, anecdotes, and historical insights)
Gwynne, S.G. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, The Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History* (war with Comanches, story of Cynthia Parker whose son became the last and greatest chief of the Comanche tribe)

**True Crime**
Berendt, John. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (entertaining true crime story)
Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood.* (the first, some say the best, in this category)
Cornwell, Patricia. *Portrait of a Killer.* (the Jack the Ripper crimes are solved?)
Metress, Christopher. *The Lynching of Emmett Till: A Documentary Narrative.* (murder in the south)

**Travelogue**
Pirsig, Robert. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.* (travel, philosophy and bikes)
Paterniti, Michael. *Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein’s Brain.* (yes, it’s true)
Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road.* (cross country bohemian adventure)
Wolfe, Tom. *Electric Kool Aid Acid Test.* (Wolfe travels with the Merry Pranksters)

*Reading list compiled from American Library Association Young Adult Library Services Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Lifelong Learners*