

Summer Reading Assignment

AP Language and Composition

[Advanced Placement Language and Composition \(AP Lang\)](#) focuses on nonfiction, including books about real—life topics such as history, biography, science, music, art, sports, movies, politics, philosophy, and lifestyle. To prepare for this class, I encourage you to read nonfiction this summer. There is one text on the list below that is a fictional narrative/novel, but is framed by nonfictional content.

Select **at least one book** that you can read and comprehend comfortably on your own. When selecting a book, use the 5-finger rule: open the book to a random full page. Read the page. While reading, hold up a finger for every unfamiliar or unknown word. The book is right for the reader if the reader is holding up 2 or 3 fingers—1 finger indicates no challenge, and 4 might be too much of a stretch. You can preview many of these texts online before making a purchase.

The content of the book must also be suitable for you. Because AP Lang is, in many respects, a college-level class, you should read books about **important issues** that adults face, but if some adult content is uncomfortable for you to read about, don't read about those issues. Sometimes the content, or maybe the style or word choice, makes a book unreadable. If a book becomes overwhelming, select another book.

You can choose from this list on the second page, **OR** you can choose a different book that is on this [list on Goodreads](#). Please **TRY to obtain and read a hard copy** of your book(s).

- Many of these books should be available at your local library or through the [Libby](#) app, which lets you read ebooks and audiobooks from your local library. You may also purchase a copy of your own.
- With a Spotify Premium subscription, you can listen to 15 hours of audiobooks each month, with a catalog of over 200,000 audiobooks. Any unused listening time expires at the end of each month and doesn't carry over to the next.



While you read, keep a **quote log**. Select three important/interesting quotes in the book: one from the **beginning**, one from the **middle**, and one from the **end**. **Cite and record the quote, along with its corresponding page number.** Bring the quotes to class on the **second day we meet**.

- You have the option to read more than one of these books if you wish. **If you read a second book** and collect three quotes from it, I will award you **+3 points on an assignment of your choice**. Additionally, **if you read a third book** and **collect three quotes** from it, I will award you **+6 points on assignments of your choice**.
 - This does not apply to quizzes, major grades, or projects; it only applies to in-class and homework assignments.

List of books on the second page. Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Summer Book Options

Start with something you're **interested** in or something you want to **learn more about**...

1. [*Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge: From Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic*](#), by Simon Winchester
2. [*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*](#), by Yuval Noah Harari
3. [*Humankind: A Hopeful History*](#) by Rutger Bregman
4. [*A People's History of the United States: 1492 - Present*](#), by Howard Zinn
5. [*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*](#), **OR** [*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
6. [*There There*](#), Tommy Orange¹
7. [*The Encyclopedia of Trouble and Spaciousness*](#), by Rebecca Solnit
8. [*Field Notes on Democracy: Listening to Grasshoppers*](#), by Arundhati Roy
9. [*Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs, and the Revolution in the Americas*](#), by Roberto Lovato
10. [*The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*](#), by Michael Pollan
11. [*The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World*](#), edited by Allison Deming and Lauret Savoy
12. [*The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*](#), by David Haskell
13. [*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*](#), by Elizabeth Gilbert
14. [*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*](#), **OR** [*Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*](#), by Robin Wall Kimmerer
15. [*Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures*](#), by Merlin Sheldrake
16. [*The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*](#), by Anna Tsing
17. [*The Wisdom of Insecurity: A Message for an Age of Anxiety*](#), by Alan Watts
18. [*Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion*](#), by Jia Tolentino
19. [*How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy*](#), by Jenny Odell
20. [*Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*](#), by Cathy Park Hong
21. [*Thick: And Other Essays*](#), by Tressie McMillan Cottom
22. [*King of the World: Muhammad Ali and the Rise of an American Hero*](#) by David Remnick
23. [*Basketball \(and Other Things\)*](#) by Shea Serrano (graphic novel)
24. [*Soccer in Sun and Shadow*](#) by Eduardo Galeano
25. [*Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain*](#) by Charles R. Cross

¹ This is a novel aka fictional, but it is framed by a prologue and interlude with nonfiction elements.