

Summer Reading Assignment AP Language and Composition

Advanced Placement Language and Composition (AP Lang) focuses on nonfiction: books about real life—history, biography, science, music, art, sports, movies, politics, philosophy, and lifestyle. To prepare for this class, I encourage you to read nonfiction this summer.

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.

The content of the book also has to be right for you. Because AP Lang is in many respects a college-level class, you should read books that are 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, make a book unreadable. If a book becomes overwhelming, select another book.

Below, you will find a list of potential books. You can choose from this list, or you can choose a different book and get it approved by your English teacher. I encourage you to purchase a copy of the book if you are able. But many of these books should be available at your local library, or you can request a copy of your selection through interlibrary loan. Or you could also use [Libby](#), an app that lets you read ebooks and audiobooks from your local library.

While you read, keep a quote log. Select 3 important quotes in the book. Pick one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the final chapter. Write down the quote, and the page number it came from. Bring the quotes to class on the second day we meet.

Also, you can read more than one of these books if you want to. If you read two books, (and collect 3 quotes from each) then I'll award you a free pass on an assignment of your choosing. And if you read three books (and collect 3 quotes from each) then I'll award you two free passes on assignments of your choosing. (Does not apply to major grades or projects, only in-class or homework assignments.)

Email your instructor if you have any questions-- robert.houghton@houstonisd.org or charri10@houstonisd.org.

Enjoy and we'll see you in the fall!

Non-Fiction Book Options

Start with something you're interested in or something you want to learn more about...
Books with a (*) are graphic novels.

Science and Investigation

- One Day: The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary 24 Hours in America* by Gene Weingarten
- Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder: Pronged Ants, Horned Humans, Mice on Toast, and Other Marvels of Jurassic Technology* by Lawrence Weschler
- A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution* by Jonathan Eig
- *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert
- **Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb* by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm

American Studies

- *Being Huemann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist* by Judith Huemann
- *Serve the People: Making Asian America in the Long Sixties* by Karen L. Ishizuka
- An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz
- **March Trilogy* by John Lewis*
- *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked A Gay Revolution* by David Carter
- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and The Birth of the FBI* by David Grann

Sports

- *Moneyball* by Michael Lewis
- *Basketball (and Other Things)* by Shea Serrano
- *Boomtown* by Sam Anderson
- *Soccer in Sun and Shadow* by Eduardo Galeano

Autobiography & Biography:

- Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
- *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande
- *Crying in H-Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner
- **Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel
- **Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

Psychology & Sociology: Interested in Societies, Culture, or How/Why We Do What We Do?

- *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green
- *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife* by Mary Roach
- Kim Jiyoung Born 1982* by Choo Nam-Joo
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond
- The Sociopath Next Door* by Martha Stout