

# AP Language and Composition

## Summer Reading Assignment

Happy summer and welcome to English 11. I am looking forward to having you in my class this semester! Here are the instructions and expectations for your summer reading assignment. You will also have an in-depth written test or in-class essay over your summer reading assignments the first full week of school.

### Assignment #1--Pulitzer

#### 1. Choose ONE novel from the following list of Pulitzer Prize Winners.

- *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson
- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich
- *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* by Michael Chabon
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingslover

\*\*Each novel is linked to where you can purchase it on Amazon.

#### 2. Annotated Physical Copy: All students are required to have their own physical copy of the book and must annotate in the book itself (I.E. mark pages, highlight, make notes/write in the margins etc.)

Annotate (color-coded) for the following topics: (50 total)

- **Blue:** Identity (15 annotations)
  - Moments a character's identity is shaped, challenged, or revealed.
  - Margin question: What forces are shaping this character's identity here and/or what does this moment tell us about their identity?
- **Pink:** American ideals (15 annotations)
  - Moments when themes of American identity are present
    - Justice vs. injustice (race, culture, status, inequality)
    - "The American Dream" (pursuit of success/happiness)
    - Freedom vs. control
    - Individual vs. the whole (personal choices, journey to self discovery, contribution to society)
  - Margin question: What does this moment suggest about America?
- **Green:** Important quotations (20 annotations)
  - Beautiful/impactful imagery (Why is it impactful?)
  - Commentary on society (What is it saying?)
  - Connection to real-life/current events (What event does it connect to?)
  - Moral/ethical questions (What does this mean?)
  - Theme statements (What is the author trying to say?)

**Disclaimer:** You know what is acceptable in your home--please make sure to research appropriately with your parents to ensure that the novels you choose suit what you are comfortable with. Some of these novels may contain mature or heavy content and must be read with maturity.

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## Assignment #2--Memoir

### 1. Choose ONE novel from the following list of memoirs

- ***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls
- ***Educated*** by Tara Westover
- ***When Breath Becomes Air*** by Paul Kalanithi
- ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson
- ***Warriors Don't Cry*** by Melba Pattillo Beals
- ***Hillbilly Elegy*** by JD Vance

\*\*Each novel is linked to where you can purchase it on Amazon.

### 2. Annotated Physical Copy: All students are required to have their own physical copy of the book and must annotate in the book itself (I.E. mark pages, highlight, make notes/write in the margins etc.)

Annotate (color-coded) for the following topics: (50 total)

- **Blue:** Author's Rhetorical Purpose (10 annotations)
  - Moments where the author is trying to accomplish something specific (inform, persuade, critique, reflect, challenge)
  - Margin question: What is the author trying to make the reader think or feel here? Why?
- **Pink:** Rhetorical appeals (10 annotations)
  - Moments of rhetorical strategies & what they accomplish
    - **Logos:** appeal to logic (facts, reasoning, evidence)
    - **Pathos:** appeal to emotion (tug on the heartstrings, evoke feelings)
    - **Ethos:** appeal to credibility/authority (why is this person the best person to make this claim?)
    - **Kairos:** appeal to urgency (why is this moment timely and necessary right NOW)
  - Margin question: How does this appeal strengthen the overall argument or message?
- **Orange:** Author's craft & complexity (10 annotations)
  - Moments where the author is intentional in how they are writing/structuring the text
    - Syntax (short vs. long sentences)
    - Structure (Fragmentation, chronological shifts etc.)
    - Repetition
    - Tension (conflicts with the authors message/beliefs, moments of uncertainty)
  - Margin question: How do these choices/moments reinforce or challenge the author's central message?
- **Green:** Important quotations (20 annotations)
  - Beautiful/impactful imagery
  - Commentary on society
  - Connection to real-life/current events
  - Moral/ethical questions
  - Theme statements: What is the author trying to say?