



Naperville North High School

AP Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome, future AP students! We are all very excited to meet you and to begin our exploration of language and literature. We're sure that you are JUST as excited to begin your journey! All AP Language teachers request that you complete the following assignment over the summer and be prepared to discuss the texts at the start of the semester.

Click on the [AP Summer Reading Text Selections 2021](#) to access the various texts. We encourage you to read all of the selections, but we require that you pick FIVE to annotate for craft and understanding (see annotation directions below). In addition to your first read annotations*, use the [Talk Back prompts](#) (also listed below) to respond to the five texts you have chosen. These annotations and responses will help guide discussions upon your return in the fall.

Annotation is simply noting words on the page that strike you, phrases that confuse or thrill you, or places where you want to talk back to the speaker or [author]. Your goal is to record ideas and impressions for future analysis. Why bother to do this? Here's what well-known scholar and avid reader Mortimer Adler says in *How to Read a Book*:

Why is marking up a [text] indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked [text] is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thought you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.

So whether you use sticky notes, highlight passages, or write comments directly in the margins, annotation helps you become a better reader. There are no hard-and-fast rules for annotating properly, but the following approach is a good way to get started. (NOTE: If you are unable to print these documents, **please do not worry!** As an alternative, you may take notes in a notebook. If you choose to take notes in a notebook, we recommend that you include page numbers and direct quotations so that you may better recall and understand why you took them.)

*Through your **first reading**, circle or highlight words or phrases that are interesting or unfamiliar, as well as any language choices that stand out to you. Note in the margins or on a sticky note why you are circling or highlighting these words. If you just circle, or just highlight, you will soon forget why you did so. Note words that stand out for their beauty or oddity as well as words you need to look up. Don't hesitate to make an educated guess at their meaning.--*Language of Literature* Shea, Scanlon, Aufses

<p>Talk Back Prompts for Texts: For each text, "Talk back" to the sources in the summer reading text selections folder by responding to prompts 1, 2, & 3. In addition, use three additional prompts in your annotations/ notes as you read. Note: we do not expect a developed essay or paragraph on each prompt; rather, we want to see you engage in a conversation with the text. Therefore, direct references to specific areas within each text ought to be clearer identifiable via quotations, paraphrasings, etc,</p>		
1. It seems the speaker/author was trying to make a point about...	2. The most interesting language choice the speaker/author made was...	3. The speaker/author seems to be writing for an audience of...
4. I wonder if...	5. I agreed with...	6. I can see how this position makes sense, however...
7. I had a question about...	8. I hadn't thought about...	9. Reading this made me think of...

Nonfiction Required Summer Reading Table of Contents

Read at least FIVE texts below. Perform a first read annotation and Talk Back.* Once you have completed each reading, identify how the writer attempts to connect with his/her audience.

1. Commencement Address at Wellesley College by Barbara Bush
2. “Finding the Hammam” by Fatimah Asghar
3. “Notes of a Native Speaker” by Eric Liu
4. “How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America” by Kiese Laymon
5. “How to Think Like Shakespeare” by Scott L. Newstok
6. [Barnard College Commencement Address](#) by Viola Davis
7. Letter to Roger Chew Weightman by Thomas Jefferson
8. “A Nose for Words” by Joshua Henkin
9. “Notes on Punctuation” by Lewis Thomas
10. “The Pleasure of Books” by William Phelps
11. “Privileged” by Kyle Korver
12. “The Psychology of Inequality” by Elizabeth Kolbert
13. [Representative John Lewis address](#) to the United States House of Representatives in support of a resolution
14. “Revenge Is Sour” by George Orwell
15. “The Text of President Obama’s Eulogy in Tucson” by Barack Obama
16. [“Are You an Intellectual?”](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

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