

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading Program 2011-2012

James Hubert Blake High School * 300 Norwood Road * Silver Spring * Maryland * 20905

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About the Course

This is primarily a course in the close study of the language and structure of prose, a course in critical reading and effective writing. *The class is intended to be challenging to the most able and serious students.* In developing their awareness of the power and versatility of language, students will study a variety of texts, learning to recognize language patterns and the author's purpose in using and arranging language for certain aims. As they develop their own writing, students should be able to describe their responses to discourse clearly and with authority, persuading their readers as appropriate through their own purposeful use of language. *All students who take A.P. Language and Composition are expected to complete both semesters in the course and take the A.P. Examination in May.*

Why Read in the Summer?

Reading and thinking about as many texts as possible gives students more opportunities to experience a variety of language and discourse. Reading, including critical reading, should be enjoyable and rewarding for students interested in writing and students who are serious about the study of language. This will help prepare them for the course and for the exam.

Suggestion

Although you are not required to purchase these books, you may find it helpful to do so. This is particularly true of Strunk and White, which will no doubt become a treasured companion in your life as a writer. Used book stores can be fun to visit and many times have inexpensive copies of well-known titles. University bookstores may also be good sources for previously owned copies. Also, the essays read in class during the school year can all be found in *The Norton Reader, 12th Edition*. This will be your assigned text for A.P. English Language, and you might find that owning your own copy brings many pleasures, including the option of marking delightful passages.

Please be aware that your grade and your success in the first few weeks of class will depend on your reading of these few texts. Our discussions, our group work, and our writing will be based on them; your teachers suggest you read them all carefully and e-mail any questions if you have them.

Yet Another Suggestion

Students who are successful in this class are not only well-read and willing to read more, but also they are well versed in history, popular culture, and current events. We suggest that if you don't already watch or read the news that you start right away. You can read the newspaper online or in print, you can watch the news in morning or in the evening, or you can listen to news programs on the radio.

**All Summer Reading assignments are due on the first day of school,
Monday, August 29th.**

****A NOTE ABOUT GRADES & SUMMER READING**** You will be graded on your summer reading assignments. If you do not do them, or if it is evident that you did not read, or, if for some reason you borrow someone else's ideas in any way without citing your source, you will receive a 0. This is a rigorous class; no effort to complete the assignment (beginning with the reading) results in no credit for the assignment.

The Reading Texts and Related Assignments

Strunk and White *Elements of Style* *

While you should of course study this entire book, you are asked to focus specifically on the following two sections: “Elementary Rules of Usage” (rules 1-11) and “Principles of Composition” (rules 12-17). Get to know these elegant guidelines, as there will be a test on them upon your arrival (yes, that means you should *know* them intimately – you should not only memorize them, you should be able to apply them).

Eudora Welty *One Writer’s Beginnings* *

“Life doesn’t hold still. A good snapshot stopped a moment from running away. Photography taught me that to be able to capture transience, by being ready to click the shutter at the crucial moment, was the greatest need I had. Making pictures of people in all sorts of situations, I learned that every feeling waits upon its gesture; and I had to be prepared to recognize this moment when I saw it. These were things a story writer needed to know. And I felt the need to hold transient life in *words*- there’s so much more of life that only words can convey- strongly enough to last me as long as I lived” (84-85).

As you read Welty’s narrative, notice how she follows her own advice; analyze her treatment of the moments in her life that she uses to illustrate her learning. Notice her style, her progression, her images. Then, choose a favorite childhood photograph and, *mimicking Welty’s style*, stop your own moment from running away. Choose your words carefully. Your narrative should amount to *at least* two pages, typed (Font: 12 point, Times New Roman) and double-spaced, and it should demonstrate an understanding of the conventions and style choices used by Eudora Welty. *In other words, you will need to assess Welty’s style, then create a personal narrative that merges your style with her conventions; you will be graded on your elegance, but mostly on your understanding and use of Welty’s style.*

Reader’s Choice

American Chica by Marie Arana *
Half the Sky by Nicolas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer *
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
Things I’ve Been Silent About by Azar Nafisi
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig *

Since AP English Language and Composition is a rhetoric class, everything you read will be analyzed as an argument. Choose one of the following books, read it, and complete the attached organizer. Choose one of the overall claims the author makes (this should be stated in your own words) and categorize the evidence used to support that claim in the provided space (this should be cited parenthetically – MLA format, please). In addition, there will be an in-class essay assignment shortly after your return from break for which you will need one of these books.

The * indicates books available to be borrowed from the Blake High School English Department. If students decide not to purchase the texts, they will be available from one of the aforementioned AP English Language and Composition teachers. Please understand that these books are only available through the end of this school year; the school office staff will not be able to access the books for you. Please make arrangements in advance if you do not plan to purchase the texts.

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Name _____ Per _____

<h2>Author's Claim</h2>		
<u>Ethos</u>	<u>Pathos</u>	<u>Logos</u>

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<u>Ethos</u>	<u>Pathos</u>	<u>Logos</u>

Other Examples

(i.e. anything that cannot be categorized as ethos, pathos, or logos. Allusion, for example, or maybe analogy, etc. Use what you learned in grade 10 to help you, and don't forget to label each one respectively.)

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