



**Advanced Placement Language and Composition, Grade 11
Summer 2008 Reading Assignment
Springbrook High School**

“AP English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

“[The course] allows students to write in a variety of forms—narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative—and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies, from imaginative literature to popular culture. Therefore, [it] emphasizes the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context....Its purpose is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers” (The College Board).

Students entering AP English 11 must read ONE work of non-fiction prose, TWO autobiographical plays, and a collection of editorial newspaper columns. The responses are due on the second day of school, August 27, 2008.

NON-FICTION PROSE:

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

PLAYS:

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Long Day’s Journey into Night by Eugene O’Neill

COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPER COLUMNS:

Select and read FIVE editorial columns from a newspaper such as *The Washington Post* or *The New York Times*. Cut and paste these columns on pieces of paper or print them from the electronic version of the paper on the internet. Be sure to include a variety of authors.

Note: Should you find any part of this assignment to be inappropriate, or if you have difficulty selecting or finding a work, please call the English Resource Teacher at 301-989-6071 to discuss alternatives.

Please be sure to read both sides of this flyer.

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE PROSE SELECTIONS: AP ENGLISH 11

Type the following information about each of the THREE full-length works:

- ❑ Write your name (first name, last name) in the upper right corner.
- ❑ Make a list, beginning at the left margin of the top line, containing:
 - Title of the book, underlined or in italics
 - Author's name (first name, last name)
 - Name of the publisher and the place of publication
 - Most recent copyright date
- ❑ Write a commentary of from 1 ½ to 2 pages in length in which you analyze the author's *style* and also discuss your *impressions of the author* (narrator). For *style*, consider his/her use of such elements as word choice, sentence patterns, selection of detail in descriptions, and method of organization. For your *impressions of the person*, consider personality, beliefs, and character traits. Include phrases, sentences, or passages from the work to support what you say.



WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE NEWSPAPER COLUMNS:

For your written response, summarize each essay, comment on the tone and diction, and defend, qualify, or challenge its contents. Assemble the columns and your commentaries into a booklet.

TIMED WRITING ASSIGNMENT

During the first week of school, you will be given two sample AP Examination questions based on your summer reading selections. These questions will test both your close reading skills and your ability to write about important literature. Your teacher will give more specific directions when you write this assignment in class.

Reading in an AP course should be both wide and deep. This reading necessarily builds upon the reading done in previous English courses. Next September we will assume that you have read the major works usually taught in grades 9 and 10. If you have somehow missed reading some of these books, don't let the summer pass without reading them.

The Odyssey
The Lord of the Flies
The Grapes of Wrath

Romeo and Juliet
The Taming of the Shrew
The Catcher in the Rye

To Kill a Mockingbird
The Piano Lesson
My Antonia

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