

AP English Language and Composition Summer Assignment June 2011



Your mission is to seek out a nonfiction book that is worthy of college-level study—a book that you can savor and enjoy—a book that you can envision using as a prop to introduce yourself. Read your thoughtfully selected work and create an impressive packet that leaves us both smiling.

We have listed a few suggestions below, but we encourage you to actively explore and select a book that may not be featured here. Also, though it is fine to use a borrowed book, you may want to purchase the text so you can make it your own, write in it, and have it to bring to class the first week of school. Please note that your selected book must be approved by your parent(s).

Books identified with an * may be signed out from the English office (A320).

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking—Gladwell
**The Color of Water*—McBride
**A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey From the Inner City to the Ivy League*—Suskind
In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens—Walker
Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer—Kidder
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America—Ehrenreich
**A Room of One's Own*—Woolf
The Omnivore's Dilemma—Pollan
The Price of Admission: How America's Ruling Class Buys Its Way Into Elite Colleges—Golden
**The Road From Coorain*—Conway
Seabiscuit or Unbroken—Hillenbrand (B-CC HS graduate)
**Silent Spring*—Carson
The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference—Gladwell

THE PACKET

Please type, double-space, and clearly label entries. Feel free to include color, graphics or other visuals as desired.

1. **COVER PAGE WITH VISUAL:** To help us assess your ability to effectively analyze visual text, please include a cover page with a visual that you think captures some important aspect of your selected book. You can arrange the cover page as creatively as you want, but be sure to cite your source and include your name. In addition, (you didn't think you'd get off that easily, did you?), write a fully developed paragraph of insightful analysis discussing the significance of this visual. The paragraph may be included on the cover page, or on the page that follows. It is okay if this analysis ends up being a synthesis of information you've gleaned from any of the other sections. (For instance, you may integrate one or more of your selected quotes and explanations from Part III.)
2. **CONTENT NOTES:** Take notes on the book's content. In other words, very briefly summarize each chapter (if no chapters, take notes every 50-70 pages). Include page numbers for these summaries. Please resist the temptation to copy and paste something from the internet. Use your own words.
3. **QUOTED TEXT:** Glean eight excellent quotations (make sure they represent the beginning, middle, and end of the book), and include page numbers. You may select quotations that reveal important information, illustrate a writer's style, raise questions in the reader, capture a vivid image, or effectively illustrate a key point the writer is making. Perhaps it is a selection of language that appeals to you, for whatever reason. After each quote, briefly explain why you think it is significant.

4. **REFLECTION:** Some things to consider: Are you able to make connections between what you've read and your own knowledge? Perhaps the book (or some part of it) enhances your understanding about yourself, the world, or some current issue or event? What is surprising about what you are reading and why? What do you find most compelling about your book and why? Where might the book fail and why? Consider integrating quoted text from the book, details from outside sources, or even using dialogue to enhance this personal reflection. It may be in the form of a formal essay, letter, or perhaps a news story—you can be creative. We want to see evidence of personal insight and your facility with language. It can be first or third person point of view. (4-5 paragraphs)
5. **VOCABULARY:** As you read, list ten intriguing, potentially useful and/or new/challenging words. Include the part of speech, the best and most clear definition you can find, and a sentence that illustrates that definition.