

AP Language and Composition – Summer Reading Assignment 2011-2012

The AP summer reading assignment is similar to last year's assignment. There are three parts to this assignment:

Part 1: Read all of *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu, a text written in the 6th century B.C. that is still used for both military and non-military purposes. Many coaches and entrepreneurs consider the book an invaluable strategic tool. You may buy the book or can you read it **online**. (Google "The Art of War" + SunTzu and a variety of hypertexts will come up. Be sure the site is reputable. (Choose an .edu, .org or .gov site.) Jot down key points. **Come to class and the discussion group with ONE page of notes. Be ready to discuss how war is like life in many ways. Which strategies for war also lead to success in life? You need to be very familiar with this text.**

Part 2: Read one non-fiction selection from the list below. *Take notes* on important details from the book. *Type one passage of 50-100 words length from the book* that you think is representative of the writer's style, or that you thought was particularly interesting or well-written. *Bring this passage and your notes with you on the first day of class.* During the first week of school, you will need to be prepared to *speak knowledgeably about this book.*

Current Affairs:

The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
Columbine by Dave Cullen
Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser
In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan
The World Without Us by Alan Weisman
Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer
The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College by Jacques Steinburg

History/Adventure:

Founding Fathers by Joseph Ellis
Triangle: The Fire that Changed America by David von Drehle
Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley with Ron Powers
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Memoirs:

127 Hours: Between a Rock and A Hard Place, Aron Ralston
The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls
Life is So Good by George Lawson
The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama
The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion
Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris
Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books by Azar Nafisi
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

Lucky Man: A Memoir by Michael J. Fox

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Sampson Davis

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracey Kidder

Sociology, Psychology, Mathematics:

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nickolas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales by Oliver W. Sacks

Outliers by Malcom Gladwell

The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age by Daniel H. Pink

****Although some of these books have ‘film versions’, you must read the book. You may expect *very* specific questions about the BOOK and not the movie. Be advised; when you are in AP, you will need to READ the book.

Part 3: Write an essay in response to the following prompt from a former AP exam. The essay should be two pages in length. Type your essay, double-space your work and use 12 point font. This is due on the first day of class.

Prompt: In many national elections, only a fraction of eligible voters actually cast ballots. For local elections, the turnout is even smaller. To prevent this state of affairs, some countries, such as Australia, make voting compulsory for all adults. In a well-written essay that draws upon your reading, experience, and observations, take and support a position on the issue of compulsory voting.

See me in A201 (English Department Office) if you need a book recommendation/description.

To review, over the summer you are expected to:

- 1. Read and take notes on *The Art of War* online. (Be prepared for your teacher-led book discussion group.)**
- 2. Read and take notes on ONE nonfiction book from the list included above.**
- 3. Write a 2-page essay. (Please see part 3 for prompt.)**

I look forward to meeting all of you. Happy reading and writing! ☺