

AP Language Summer Reading

Required Title and Instructions

Each student should read at least five of the essays in **The New Kings of Non-Fiction**, edited by Ira Glass, ISBN 9781594482670. In addition, each student should read at least one more work from the list below. When you return to school in the fall, you should be able to write intelligently about the ideas, arguments, concepts, and writing style of each work. Pay particular attention to the central argument(s) of each work, and how the author connects with her audience. Some of these works are very challenging; make sure to read carefully and consider finding a partner to read and discuss the text with you.

Enjoy the reading! Don't treat it as a chore, but an opportunity to read something interesting and engaging.

A final suggestion would be to read as many articles from quality magazines like *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and/or *Harper's Magazine* during the summer as you can, paying attention to argument, style, and structure.

Environment

- *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau
- *My First Summer in the Sierras* by John Muir
- *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey
- *Wilderness in the American Imagination* by Roderick Nash
- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold
- *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard
- *Collapse* by Jared Diamond

Education

- *The End of Education* by Neil Postman
- *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* by Diane Ravitch
- *Weapons of Mass Instruction* by John Taylor Gatto
- *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr
- *Shop Class as Soulcraft* by Matthew Crawford
- *The Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time* by David Ulin
- *Getting Schooled* by Garret Keizer

Culture

- *Shadow and Act* by Ralph Ellison
- *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman
- *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
- *The Western Canon* by Harold Bloom
- *The Art of Choosing* by Sheena Iyengar
- *The Anti-Intellectual Presidency: The Decline of Presidential Rhetoric* by Elvin Lim
- *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean
- *Men at Work* by George Will
- *Black Boy* by Richard Wright
- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Story of Stuff* by Annie Leonard
- *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr
- *Everything Bad is Good for You* by Steven Johnson
- *Essays from the Nick of Time* by Mark Slouka
- *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again* by David Foster Wallace

AP Language Summer Reading

Politics

- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville
- *The Autobiography Of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley and Malcolm X
- *The American Political Tradition* by Richard Hofstadter
- *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan
- *The Conservative Soul* by Andrew Sullivan
- *One Man's America: The Pleasures and Provocations of Our Singular Nation* by George Will
- *When Everything Changed* by Gail Collins
- *Intellectuals and Society* by Thomas Sowell
- *The Conscience of a Liberal* by Thomas Krugman
- *Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit

Economics/Current Events

- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *The Road to Serfdom* by Frederick Hayek
- *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid
- *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood* by David Simon
- *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
- *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis

General Interest

- *What the Dog Saw* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

Science

- *The Mismeasure of Man* by Stephen Jay Gould
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- *The Third Chimpanzee* by Jared Diamond

History/Philosophy

- *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- *Nixonland: The Rise of a President* by Rick Perlstein
- *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* by Gordon Wood
- *The Living and the Dead: Robert McNamara and Five Lives of a Lost War* by Paul Hendrickson
- *A Terrible Love of War* by James Hillman
- *An Intimate History of Killing* by Joanna Bourke
- *Eichmann in Jerusalem* by Hannah Arendt
- *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan
- *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell
- *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Media/Propaganda

- *What Orwell Didn't Know* by Andras Szanto
- *Manufacturing Consent* by Noam Chomsky
- *Media Unlimited* by Todd Gitlin