

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading 2024

Dear future AP Language Students,

*This summer, you will read your choice of **two non-fiction books** (to be accessed/ purchased/ borrowed by the student - if there are concerns, please contact HHS).*

It is the expectation of the AP teachers that junior-level AP Language & Composition students will have exposure to a range of topics, writing styles, and text difficulty before entering the AP classroom in the fall. Memorization of course content is far less important to success in the AP Classroom than familiarity with non-fiction writing styles and the consumption of new ideas, concepts, and styles. This assignment is your opportunity to explore topics that interest you and to expand your understanding of those topics and of non-fiction writing styles.

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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 his or her audience. As you read, ask yourself critical questions, such as, “how do the author’s stylistic choices help to make the subject interesting?,” “what research did the writer do?,” or “what perspectives or ideas are being left out?”

Some of these works are very challenging—not only in terms of the reading level, but also due to emotional content in some cases; make sure to select books that appeal to you, read carefully, and consider finding a partner to read and discuss the text with you.

A final suggestion would be to build familiarity with other non-fiction texts: read the newspaper and as many articles from quality literary 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. Get used to the format and style of non-fiction writing as much as possible.

The list below is long, but not exhaustive: If a student wants to read a high-quality non-fiction book that is not listed, they may email Jenna Clark (jclark@helenaschools.org) or Collin Salisbury (csalisbury@helenaschools.org) to check whether their selection is appropriate. We also recommend visiting the **Lewis & Clark Library** or a **local bookstore** such as Montana Book Company, as they stock a wide variety of non-fiction and can not only help you find these texts but can also help you to select the best book for your taste and interests.

Have a great summer, and Happy Reading!

-Jenna Clark & Collin Salisbury

Author Last Name	Author First Name	Title	Category
Abagnale	Frank W. and Stan Redding	<i>Catch Me if You Can: The True Story of a Real Fake</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Abbey	Edward	<i>Desert Solitaire</i>	Environment
Alexander	Michelle	<i>The New Jim Crow</i>	Politics
Angelou	Maya	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	Culture
Arendt	Hannah	<i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>	History/ Philosophy
Barry	Dave	<i>I'm Not Taking This Sitting Down</i>	Culture
Barry	John M	<i>The Great Influenza</i>	History (Science)
Bloom	Harold	<i>The Western Canon</i>	Culture
Bourke	Joanna	<i>An Intimate History of Killing</i>	History/ Philosophy
Boylan	James Finney	<i>Getting In</i>	Culture
Bryson	Bill	<i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i>	Science
Capote	Truman	<i>In Cold Blood</i>	Culture
Carr	Nicholas	<i>The Shallows</i>	Education / Culture
Carter	Stephen	<i>Culture of Disbelief</i>	Culture
Chomsky	Noam	<i>Manufacturing Consent</i>	Media/ Propaganda
Collins	Gail	<i>When Everything Changed</i>	Politics
Crawford	Matthew	<i>Shop Class as Soulcraft</i>	Education
Cullen	Dave	<i>Columbine</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Cullen	Dave	<i>Parkland</i>	Culture
de Tocqueville	Alexis	<i>Democracy in America</i>	Politics
Diamond	Jared	<i>Collapse</i>	Environment
Diamond	Jared	<i>The Third Chimpanzee</i>	Science
Diamond	Jared	<i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	Science
Didion	Joan	<i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i>	Culture
Dillard	Annie	<i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>	Environment
Dunbar-Ortiz	Roxanne	<i>An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States</i>	History/ Philosophy
Egan	Timothy	<i>Immortal Irishman</i>	History/ Philosophy
Egan	Timothy	<i>The Worst Hard Time</i>	History/ Philosophy
Eggers	Dave	<i>Zeitoun</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Ehrenreich	Barbara	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Ellison	Ralph	<i>Shadow and Act</i>	Culture
Frankl	Viktor E.	<i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>	History
Friedan	Betty	<i>The Feminine Mystique</i>	Politics

Gatto	John Taylor	<i>Weapons of Mass Instruction</i>	Education
Gilbert	Daniel	<i>Stumbling on Happiness</i>	Science
Gitlin	Todd	<i>Media Unlimited</i>	Media/ Propaganda
Gladwell	Malcolm	<i>Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference</i>	Culture
Gladwell	Malcolm	<i>Blink</i>	Science
Gladwell	Malcolm	<i>Outliers</i>	Culture
Gladwell	Malcolm	<i>What the Dog Saw</i>	Culture
Gould	Stephen Jay	<i>The Mismeasure of Man</i>	Science
Haley	Alex & Malcolm X	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>	Politics
Hamil	Pete	<i>A Drinking Life: A Memoir</i>	Culture
Hayek	Frederick	<i>The Road to Serfdom</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Hendrickson	Paul	<i>The Living and the Dead: Robert McNamara and Five Lives of a Lost War</i>	History/ Philosophy
Hillenbrand	Laura	<i>Seabiscuit</i>	History
Hillman	James	<i>A Terrible Love of War</i>	History/ Philosophy
Hofstadter	Richard	<i>The American Political Tradition</i>	Politics
Iyengar	Sheena	<i>The Art of Choosing</i>	Culture
Johnson	Steven	<i>Everything Bad is Good for You</i>	Culture
Johnson	Steven	<i>The Ghost Map</i>	Medicine/History
Junger	Sebastian	<i>Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging</i>	Culture
Keizer	Garret	<i>Getting Schooled</i>	Education
Kercheval	Jesse Lee	<i>Space</i>	Science
Kingsolver	Barbara	<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Culture
Klosterman	Chuck	<i>Sex, Drugs, and Coco Puffs: A Low Culture Manifesto</i>	Culture
Kolata	Gina	<i>Flu</i>	Medicine/History
Kristof	Nicholas and Sheryl WuDunn	<i>Half the Sky</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Krugman	Thomas	<i>The Conscience of a Liberal</i>	Politics
Kurson	Robert	<i>Shadow Divers</i>	History
Larson	Erik	<i>The Devil in the White City</i>	History/ Philosophy
Leonard	Annie	<i>The Story of Stuff</i>	Culture
Leopold	Aldo	<i>A Sand County Almanac</i>	Environment
Lewis	Michael	<i>The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Lim	Elvin	<i>The Anti-Intellectual Presidency: The Decline of Presidential Rhetoric</i>	Culture
Mooney	Jonathan	<i>The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal</i>	Culture
Muir	John	<i>My First Summer in the Sierras</i>	Environment
Nash	Roderick	<i>Wilderness in the American Imagination</i>	Environment

Nimura	Janice P.	<i>The Doctors Blackwell</i>	Medicine/History
Noah	Trevor	<i>Born a Crime</i>	Humor/ Memoir
Orlean	Susan	<i>The Orchid Thief</i>	Culture
Orwell	George	<i>Homage to Catalonia</i>	History/ Philosophy
Perlstein	Rick	<i>Nixonland: The Rise of a President</i>	History/ Philosophy
Pollan	Michael	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i>	Culture
Postman	Neil	<i>The End of Education</i>	Education
Postman	Neil	<i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>	Culture
Preston	Richard	<i>The Hot Zone</i>	Non-Fiction Medical Thriller
Ravitch	Diane	<i>The Death and Life of the Great American School System</i>	Education
Reid	T.R.	<i>The Healing of America</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Reynolds & Kendi	Jason & Ibram X.	<i>Stamped</i>	Culture / Race
Richtel	Matt	<i>A Deadly Wandering</i>	Culture
Rodriguez	Luis J.	<i>Always Running</i>	Culture
Rodriguez	Richard	<i>Hunger for Memory</i>	Culture
Sacks	Oliver	<i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales</i>	Science
Safran Foer	Jonathan	<i>Eating Animals</i>	Culture
Schlosser	Eric	<i>Fast Food Nation</i>	Culture
Shah	Sonia	<i>The Fever</i>	Medicine/History
Shilts	Randy	<i>And the Band Played On</i>	Medicine/History
Simon	David	<i>The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Skloot	Rebecca	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Science
Slouka	Mark	<i>Essay from the Nick of Time</i>	Culture
Solnit	Rebecca	<i>Men Explain Things to Me</i>	Politics
Sowell	Thomas	<i>Intellectuals and Society</i>	Politics
Sullivan	Andrew	<i>The Conservative Soul</i>	Politics
Szanto	Andras	<i>What Orwell Didn't Know</i>	Media/ Propaganda
Thoreau	Henry David	<i>Walden</i>	Environment
Ulin	David	<i>The Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time</i>	Education
Wallace	David Foster	<i>A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again</i>	Culture
Westover	Tara	<i>Educated</i>	Education Memoir
Wheelan	Charles	<i>We Came We Saw We Left</i>	Travel Memoir
Will	George	<i>Men at Work</i>	Culture
Will	George	<i>One Man's America: The Pleasures and Provocations of Our Singular Nation</i>	Politics

Wood	Gordon	<i>The Radicalism of the American Revolution</i>	History/ Philosophy
Wright	Richard	<i>Black Boy</i>	Culture
WuDunn	Sheryl and Nicholas Kristof	<i>Half the Sky</i>	Economics/ Current Events
X	Malcolm & Alex Haley	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>	Politics
Yousafzai	Malala	<i>I Am Malala</i>	Economics/ Current Events
Zinn	Howard	<i>A People's History of the United States</i>	History/ Philosophy