

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade AP Language & Composition: 2019-2020 Summer Assignment

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Welcome to AP Language & Composition. Congratulations on challenging yourself! I am looking forward to having you in class.

Don't procrastinate. I encourage you to read over this assignment as soon as you get it and to ask any questions you have before you leave for the summer. However, if questions arise as you read, feel free to email me or send me a message through Remind. (Info for Remind at the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> page.) I will try to respond within a couple of days. Likewise, in the fall, be prepared to answer any questions I may have for you.

You will be reading two texts and will need to obtain a copy of each book for your summer reading assignment (library, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, etc. If possible, I encourage you to buy copies, as it will be a great resource for you and *will allow you to take notes in the book while reading*). If you can't write in your book, you will need to use sticky notes.

I also want to encourage you to strive to be able to use the descriptor "reader" in your personal list of characteristics. Read more than just the "summer assignment." Read for fun. Read the news. Read a magazine. Just make sure you make it a habit and read every day! As one of my favorite teacher authors reminded me: "There is a strong correlation between reading regularly for pleasure and academic success... It is also clear that the more a person reads, the better they write!" (Kittle). SO – if you want to succeed – you need to read ☺!

Finally, please know that with this class comes high expectations, including focus and maturity. This is considered a college level class and some of you will be earning college credit. Even if you believe senioritis *is* real, that cannot be a factor in this class.

## Assignment.

This summer, you will need to *closely* read and annotate two books. The point of annotating is to *help you* on the assignments related to the books, so do what feels natural to you – this should be an organic part of reading, not forced. (Let me be very clear: this should not hinder your enjoyment of the books!! I don't want to hear that from one person in the fall!) Think specifically about themes and relevant topics, as well as the effective ways the authors are coming across to the readers. Jot down page numbers, underline, highlight, keep a list or a post-it in the front of the book; you decide if you do this while you read or if you go back after you read... whatever is easiest for you. You will also write a brief response. (Details on the next page.)

## First, the books.

- 1) Everyone in the class must read *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. This is one of my favorite books of all time and I generally hear a good response from students as well. I hope you like it as much as I do.
- 2) For the second book, you need to choose a book written between 2000 and today. I want you to read a contemporary book for several different reasons, most of which we will discuss this fall. And although I would love for everyone to read *Wonder* (everyone in the world, really!), I need you to pick something age appropriate / challenging enough for you. Of course, young adult books are not out of the question! But reading level is important. Please review the *suggestions* on the back (perhaps read a summary on Amazon.com or flip through them at the library) and choose one that interests you and one you are comfortable with. Of course I trust that you will choose a title you haven't read before. It is important, though, that you do not read *Just Mercy*, or *The Other Wes Moore*, as we will be reading those in class.

## **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTES\*\***

- **Do not** get the abridged/young reader's version of any of these books.
- **Do not** choose a book simply because your friends are choosing it.
- **I shouldn't have to say this** – but I will: don't pick a book just because there's a film!
- And again, choose a book you haven't read before.

- If you can't decide between two, contact me, or wait. We will have additional independent reading assignments during your senior year where these books will be an option; so, read one now, and save one for later.
- The list = suggestions. If there is something else that you really want to read (for this assignment), ask me and we will try to come to an agreement.

Once school begins, there will be discussion, presentations, and writing assignments related to the books.

### Second, the written response.

Write a 2-page (about 600 words) informal response connecting your two books. They can be connected thematically, personally, based on level of importance – the list of connections to be made is endless. **Your opinions, questions, and thoughts are important!** This typed, double-spaced response is due in the main office on August 5<sup>th</sup> by 3:00 P.M.

#### CHECKLIST FOR AUGUST 5:

\_\_\_\_\_ Your typed, 600ish word response to the two books you read for class.  
You could also EMAIL this document to me!

#### CHECKLIST FOR TURN IN FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Unbroken* and choice book, with your annotations/notes

\_\_\_\_\_ Positive attitude ☺

\_\_\_\_\_ Good work ethic

\_\_\_\_\_ Willingness to contribute in an intellectual setting

\*\*You need both of your books in class the first 4 weeks of school.

One other thing – please sign up for the class Remind at your earliest convenience. Text @apthorburn to 81010.

If you have *any* questions, or just want to chat about the books, email me or send me a message via Remind.

Happy Reading ☺  
Ms Thorburn

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Book – Contemporary – Your Choice – Suggestions

**\*\*Make sure you are comfortable with the topic of the book you choose.\*\***

*Tigerland* by Wil Haygood  
*Turtles All the Way Down*  
*All the Light We Cannot See*  
*Life of Pi*  
*The Kite Runner*  
*The Help*  
*Water for Elephants*  
*My Sister's Keeper*  
*The Road*  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*  
*Between the World and Me*  
*Fan Girl*

*I'll Give You the Sun*  
*The Hate U Give*  
*Eleanor and Park*  
*The Best We Could Do*  
*Educated*  
*Behold the Dreamers*  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*  
*The Distance Between Us*  
*The Glass Castle*  
*The 57 Bus*  
*Underground Railroad* by C. Whitehead  
*Little Fires Everywhere*

*Sing, Unburied, Sing*  
*Hillbilly Elegy*  
*Evicted*  
*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*  
*There There*  
*Where the Crawdads Sing*  
*Salt to the Sea*  
*Everything Here is Beautiful*  
*Austerlitz*  
*The Book Thief*  
*Purple Hibiscus*  
*Small Island*