

## 2017-18 English III-AP

### **SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

Incoming junior students will be required to read and annotate one non-fiction book from the first list of reading and one additional book of their choice from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or a different 2<sup>nd</sup> non-fiction book with my approval (email me with requests). That is a total of two books.

An assessment will be given during the first full week of school along with annotation checks for both books. You will find instructions on annotations attached to this instruction sheet. *Please review each book before selecting one: some may contain mature themes which may not be appropriate for every individual.*

#### **LIST # ONE**

1. Barry, John M. *The Great Influenza*. A detailed description of the scourge of the "Spanish flu" of 1918 with interesting elements of the practice of medicine and medical school in those days. Especially appealing for students who are science oriented.
2. Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. Truman Capote reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers...their story of the lives and deaths of these six people, the victims and the murderers. Ground breaking journalism that reads like fiction.
3. Collins, Larry and Dominique Lapierre. *Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August, 1944*. The dramatic story of the liberation of Paris...exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written.
4. Gladwell, Malcolm. *Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. Explores the tipping point phenomenon—what causes a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate.
5. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*. A book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant...that aren't as simple as they seem...cutting edge neuroscience and psychology.
6. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. Outlier" is a scientific term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. In the summer, in Paris, we expect most days to be somewhere between warm and very hot. But imagine if you had a day in the middle of August where the temperature fell below freezing. That day would be outlier. And while we have a very good understanding of why summer days in Paris are warm or hot, we know a good deal less about why a summer day in Paris might be freezing cold. In this book I'm interested in people who are outliers—in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a cold day in August.
7. *What the Dog Saw*: Malcolm Gladwell's new book, presents nineteen brilliantly researched and provocative essays that exhibit the curiosity his readers love, each with a graceful narrative that leads to a thought-provoking analysis.
8. Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. Highly acclaimed, this book won numerous, highly prestigious prizes...considered readable, interesting, ground-breaking, and —dazzling by critics.
9. Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales*. Psychology one of the great clinical writers of the 20th century (New York Times) recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders...stories of individuals afflicted with fantastic perceptual and intellectual aberrations.

10. Soja, Edward. *Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places*. The book's central argument is that spatial thinking, or what has been called the geographical or spatial imagination, has tended to be bicameral, or confined to two approaches. Spatiality is either seen as concrete material forms to be mapped, analyzed, and explained; or as mental constructs, ideas about and representations of space and its social significance. Edward Soja critically re-evaluates this dualism to create an alternative approach, one that comprehends both the material and mental dimensions of spatiality but also extends beyond them to new and different modes of spatial thinking.

11. Twenge, Jean M. *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—And More Miserable Than Ever Before* (2007).

**OR**

*The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement* (2009) The title says it all.

12. Zakaria, Fareed. *Post-America World*. An important book by one of today's most influential journalists.

13. Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream*. The New York Times bestselling investigation into white-collar unemployment from "our premier reporter of the underside of capitalism"—The New York Times Book Review  
Americans' working lives are growing more precarious every day. Corporations slash employees by the thousands, and the benefits and pensions once guaranteed by "middle-class" jobs are a thing of the past.

14. *Poverty & Homelessness* By Greenhaven Press Editor

The Current Controversies series examines today's most important social and political issues; each volume presents a diverse selection of primary and secondary sources representing all sides of the debate in question.; This title explores a variety of issues related to poverty and homelessness around the questions of whether poverty and homelessness are serious problems, whether government social assistance programs help the poor, how poverty in America should be addressed. Each anthology is composed of a wide spectrum of sources written by many of the foremost authorities in their respective fields.

15. Saltzman, Arthur M. *Objects and Empathy*.

"If the critical essay challenges its topic to wrestle," Saltzman writes in the preface to these 25 pieces, "then the lyric essay invites it to dance." Saltzman undertook these essays, which won the Mid-List Press First Series Award for Creative Nonfiction, to escape critical writing, which may account for their nonlinear quality. While some comprise fragments connected by the slightest thematic filaments, each piece coalesces to reveal a keen mind in love with words. Referring to Howard Nemerov's imagery or Michael Jordan's kinesiology, quoting John Updike, Joseph Heller or Susan Sontag, the best pieces sometimes disguise memoir as literary or cultural criticism. Other times, anecdote gives rise to philosophical query

**Writing Assignment over Reading List #1:**

Use the following link to write a literary criticism over one of the books above.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/697/1>

500 words, MLA format.

## **LIST # TWO**

### **AUTOBIOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR**

Sontag, Susan. *Against Interpretation*.

A collection of [essays](#) published in 1966. It includes some of Sontag's best-known works, including "On Style," and the eponymous essay "Against Interpretation." In the last, Sontag argues that in the new approach to [aesthetics](#) the spiritual importance of art is being replaced by the emphasis on the intellect. Rather than recognizing great creative works as possible sources of energy, she argues, contemporary critics were all too often taking art's transcendental power for granted, and focusing instead on their own intellectually constructed abstractions.

Chen, Da. *Colors of the Mountain*. —"I was born in Southern China in 1962, in the tiny town of Yellow Stone..."

Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*. Autobiography of 1950s childhood in Pittsburgh...combines the child's sense of wonder with adult's intelligence and is written in some of the finest prose that exists in contemporary American writing...a joyous ode to Dillard's] childhood.

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages...listed in a Library of Congress survey as among the ten most influential books in America as —a book that made a difference in your life. May be of special interest to students who liked Elie Wiesel's *Night*.

Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*. —"This is a book about the most admirable of human virtues—courage. 'Grace under pressure,' Ernest Hemingway defined it. And these are the stories of the pressures experienced by eight United States senators and the grace with which they endured them." (Kennedy). Pulitzer Prize, 1957. Of special interest to students interested in politics, public life...about the kind of courage America needs— moral courage, the courage of personal integrity.

Sheff, David. *Beautiful Boy*. A memoir about a father's struggle with his son's meth addiction. Gives insight into the lack of treatment and options for this kind of addiction. Includes research and personal narration.

*When Breathing Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. Living in the face of death, memoir of neurosurgeon who dies of cancer at age 37 and his reflections on how to live a meaningful life and accept death with dignity.

NOTE: The following novels will be included in the curriculum 2017-18, so you will need to purchase your own copy. Please plan accordingly. This is required since they are class reads.

FICTION: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

NON-FICTION: *When Breathing Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. Living in the face of death, memoir of a neurosurgeon that dies of cancer at age 37 and his reflections on how to live a meaningful life and accept death.

(Fall Semester)

FICTION: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

NON-FICTION-

(Spring Semester)

*This is not a comprehensive list, and other works may be added to the curriculum.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email if you have any questions regarding AP English III  
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