

# AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

## 2018-2019 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS – Williamsburg High School

Welcome to AP Language & Composition! I'm excited that you've chosen to expand your writing knowledge through various forms of nonfiction texts. In order to introduce you to the kind of reading we will be doing in class, you are required to complete a few summer assignments that you may find challenging but hopefully enjoyable as well. You **must purchase** these texts because having your own text will allow you to practice the close and active reading strategies. Please make sure you purchase the correct version of the texts. I have included ISBN numbers for you. Feel free to email me with any questions at [futhey\\_r@burgschools.org](mailto:futhey_r@burgschools.org).

Your summer reading contains components outlined in A-D.

### A. DIALECTIC JOURNAL. – handout

Read the handout “Dialectic Journal” (attached) and use it as a guide when you are asked to note take.

### B. *HILLBILLY ELEGY* by JD Vance – memoir

ISBN: 978-006230054-6

Read *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance closely and create a handwritten dialectic journal as you read. You need to do this as you go not after you have finished. The dialectic journal is a conversation between you and the text. There are two key components: a passage and your commentary. The primary purpose is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of note taking and should be used to think about, digest, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read using the actual text, so that when you are asked to write an essay about or utilize the information from a text, you will not have to re-read the entire text. Instead, you can search your notes for direct quotes to use as supporting evidence for your opinions. It is important that you have something to say about the work. Your comments should be developed and demonstrate higher level thinking skills that go well beyond summary. I am looking for evidence of you thinking. A dialectic journal is also an effective way to assess your comprehension. The dialectic journal will show me your original thoughts about the text, show me your informal writing abilities, and help you review for your in-class essay and class discussions. You should have a minimum of 25 entries in your dialectic journal. This is about one entry for every ten pages or so of the book.

“Americans call them hillbillies, rednecks, or white trash. I call them neighbors, friends, and family.” –JD Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*

### C.. Barron’s *AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION* – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition – workbook

ISBN-13: 978-1438008646

Understanding the AP English Language and Composition test is an important part of this course. Read and complete all activities in Chapter 1: *Getting Acquainted with the Test*. We will use this workbook throughout first semester. Please bring it with you to class every day.

### D. NONFICTION BOOK and Dialectic Journal: Choose ONE of the following:

The full-length works below represent a range of nonfiction from approximately the last decade arranged by topic. Keep a dialectic journal as you read (minimum of 25 entries).

## Current Events

Five Days at Memorial, Sheri Fink

Detroit City is the Place to Be, Mark Binelli

Behind the Beautiful Forevers, Katherine Boo

Thank You for Your Service, David Finkel

Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make this Country Work, Jeanne Marie Laskas

The Long Walk: The Story of War and the Life that Follows, Brian Castner

Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman, Jon Krakauer

## Digital

Exploding the Phone: The Untold Story of Teenagers and Outlaws who Hacked Ma Bell, Phil Lapsley

Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker, Kevin Mitnick

Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter,  
Steven Johnson

Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World:, Jane McGonigal

## Sports

Collision Low Crossers: A Year Inside the Turbulent World of NFL Football, Nicholas Dawidoff

Muck City: Winning and Losing in Football's Forgotten Town, Bryan Mealer

Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen,  
Christopher McDougall

Over Time: My Life as a Sports Writer, Frank Deford

## Popular Culture

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking, Susan Cain

Rejuvenile: Kickball, Cartoons, Cupcakes and the Reinvention of the American Grownup,  
Christopher Noxon

The Know it All, A.J. Jacobs

Moby Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers,  
Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in  
Search of Them, Donovan Hohn

Super Freakonomics, Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner

## History

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of those Who Survived the American Dustbowl,  
Timothy Egan

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption, Laura  
Hillenbrand

Seabiscuit: An American Legend, Laura Hillenbrand

Arc of Justice, Kevin Boyle

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed  
America, Eric Larson

In The Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Berlin, Eric Larson

You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train, Howard Zinn

## Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion  
Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West,  
Dorothy Wickenden  
Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt  
The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls  
A Man Without a Country, Kurt Vonnegut  
Blue Nights, Joan Didion  
Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock, David Margolick  
Miracle Boy Grows Up: How the Disability Rights Revolution Saved My Sanity,  
Ben Mattlin  
A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey From the Inner City to the Ivy League, Ron  
Suskind

## Science

The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature, David George Haskell  
The Sixth Extinction, Elizabeth Kolbert  
The Girls of Atomic City, The Untold Story of Women Who Helped Win World War II,  
Denise Kiernan  
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot  
Annoying: The Science of What Bugs Us, Joe Palca & Flora Lichtman  
That's Disgusting: Unraveling the Mysteries of Repulsion, Rachel Herz  
Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers, Mary Roach  
Gulp: Adventures of the Alimentary Canal, Mary Roach  
Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain, Oliver Sacks  
Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything,  
Joshua Foer

## Food

Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us, Michael Moss  
Birds Eye: The Adventures of Curious Man, Mark Kurlansky  
Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Ruined Our Most Alluring Fruit, Barry  
Estabrook  
The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food,  
Jennifer B. Lee  
Eating Animals, Jonathan Safran Foer

## Travel

The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World,  
Eric Weiner  
My Kind of Place: Travel Stories from a Woman Who's Been Everywhere, Susan Orlean  
Cross County: Fifteen Years and 90,000 miles on the Roads and Interstates of America  
With Lewis and Clark, a Lot of Bad Motels, a Moving Van, Emily Post, Jack  
Kerouac, My Wife, My Mother-in-Law, Two Kids, and Enough Coffee to Kill an  
Elephant, Robert Sullivan

## AP SUMMER READING CHECKLIST

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- ❑ Read handout *Dialectic Journal* (attached)
- ❑ Read and Annotate *Hillbilly Elegy*
- ❑ Complete a Dialectic Journal on *Hillbilly Elegy* (25 minimum entries)
- ❑ Read and Annotate Chapter 1 of *Barron's AP Lang & Comp* workbook
- ❑ Complete all activities in Chapter 1 of *Barron's AP Lang & Comp* workbook
- ❑ Read and annotate a novel from the nonfiction book list
- ❑ Complete a Dialectic Journal on your novel (25 minimum entries)

## DIALECTICAL JOURNALS

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts, your ideas about the themes we cover and our class discussions. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your Literary Analysis assignments.

### PROCEDURE:

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (*ALWAYS include page numbers*).
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, analysis, and comments on each passage)
- Label your responses. The following is a list of **sample** codes:
  - (CH) Characterization – Analyze details or dialog the author gives you to build his/her characters.
  - (C) Connect – Make a connection to your life, the world, or another text
  - (P) Predict – Anticipate what will occur based on what's in the passage
  - (L) Literary Device – analyze the author's craft using literary terminology
  - (R) Reflect – Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just the way things work?
  - (T) Theme - Determine the author's overall message about some aspect of life through a close reading of a passage.
  - (M) Mood – Determine the mood or tone of a scene and explain how that might be important.
  - (Rh) Rhetorical device – Determine how the author writes

#### Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *Blues Ain't No Mockinbird* by Toni Cade Bambara

Passages from the text	Pg#	Commentary
<p>“The puddle had frozen over, and me and Cathy went stompin in it. The twins from next door, Tyrone and Terry, were swingin so high out of sight we forgot we were waitin our turn on the tire. Cathy jumped up and came down hard on her heels and started tapdancin. And the frozen patch splinterin every which way underneath kinda spooky. ‘Looks like a plastic spider web,’ she said. ‘A sort of weird spider, I guess, with many mental problems.’”</p>	1	<p>(CH) In this first paragraph of the story Bambara <b>indirectly characterizes the narrator</b> using rural Southern <b>dialect</b> to let us know our <b>setting</b> is the South and our <b>narrator</b> may be smart, but may not be “educated.” We also learn that the characters are children from the activities described. (L) Nice <b>thermal imagery</b> about the puddle freezing over to let us know how cold it is in the scene. (C) The <b>visual imagery</b> of the twins swinging high on the tire swing reminds me of my own childhood when I had to wait in line forever to use the swing. And how exciting it was once it was my turn. (L) There is more great visual imagery about the splintering puddle, and the <b>kinetic imagery</b> of the “tapdancin.” I especially liked the <b>simile</b> about the spider web and the humor of spider with mental problems. (M) The <b>mood</b> of the story seems to be playful and humorous. (P) I wonder if the entire story will be this way, too? Overall, I am drawn into the story and am already laughing.</p>

## CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting
- If you find an extremely long passage that moves you, don't hesitate to use it, just employ ellipses (...) to shorten your writing load. You'll have the page number so that if you decide to share your entry, the class can easily find and read along.

## RESPONDING TO THE TEXT:

You can *respond* to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be **specific and detailed**. You can write as much as you want for each entry. You can use loose-leaf paper for your journals or download the template from the my website: Dialectical Journal Word Template, and type your responses on the computer.

### To Get Started: Beginner Responses

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel
- Agree or disagree with a character or the author

### Sample Sentence Starters for Beginners:

- I really don't understand this **because...**
- I really dislike/like this idea **because...**
- I think the author is trying to say that...
- This passage reminds me of a time in my life when...
- If I were (name of character) at this point I would...
- This character reminds me of (name of person) because...

### The Target: Higher Level Responses

- **Analyze the text for use of literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery) and how they contribute to the Theme**
- **Make connections between different characters or events in the text**
- **Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc.)**
- **Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)**
- **Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character**
- **Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole**