April 16, 2019

Welcome to AP Language!

We are so excited to have you in one of our classes next year! AP Language is a class that encourages you to think, read, and write beyond your comfort zone, helping to prepare you for the AP test and for your classes in college. We have provided a summer reading assignment that we hope will enhance your experience in the class, and we are so excited for it. We really think that you will enjoy and learn from the experience.

Enclosed is a list of non-fiction books. Choose one that interests you, and then complete the provided packet on your book **as you are reading**. You will also be using this novel to springboard into your research project second semester, so choose wisely. If you do not want to buy a copy of the novel, most of these should be available at the public library. Bring the completed packet and the book to class on the first day of class in August.

Please feel free to email us if you have any questions over the summer or difficulties with the assignment.

See you in August!

Mrs. Mariah McCune (Mariah.McCune@d51schools.org)

Mrs. Carla King (Carla.King@d51schools.org)

\*\*For a complete digital copy of this assignment, please visit [www.mariahmccune.weebly.com](http://www.mariahmccune.weebly.com) and click on the AP Language tab

**Independent Novel Book Choices**

We would highly recommend that you do research on these books before choosing the one you want to read. If you type the title into Amazon.com, you can find descriptions of the book and customer reviews. If you start a book and don’t like it, you will either have to start over with a new book or just power through the assignment and project for the book you don’t like. Both of those scenarios could be avoided with a little time and care spent beforehand.

*Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, Katherine Boo

* Katherine Boo’s novel follows the story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees “a fortune beyond counting” in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. 288 pages

*Cash and Credit Information for Teens: Tips for a Successful Financial Life . . .*, Karen Bellenir

* This book introduces teens to financial planning, employment, loans, consumer rights, and credit-card use and abuse. Considering that the average American family carries almost $9000 in credit-card debt, the concepts presented are a must-read. Text boxes in each chapter provide summaries, definitions, and other sources of information. The book is divided into seven parts: You and Your Money, You Are a Consumer, Understanding Banks, You and Your Job, Understanding Loans and Credit Cards, Avoiding Financial Risks, and If You Need More Information. Contracts–whether for buying a car, a gym membership, or a cell phone–are clearly explained and provide details in easy terms not found in other books on money. 407 pages.

*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History,* Elizabeth Kolbert

* In The Sixth Extinction, two-time winner of the National Magazine Award and New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert draws on the work of scores of researchers in half a dozen disciplines, accompanying many of them into the field: geologists who study deep ocean cores, botanists who follow the tree line as it climbs up the Andes, marine biologists who dive off the Great Barrier Reef. She introduces us to a dozen species, some already gone, others facing extinction, including the Panamian golden frog, staghorn coral, the great auk, and the Sumatran rhino. Through these stories, Kolbert provides a moving account of the disappearances occurring all around us. 336 pages.

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

* Erik Larson writes about the 1893 World’s Fair and the serial killer, H.H. Holmes, who used the chaos of the time to lure people to their deaths. 447 pages

*Freakonomics*, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

* Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports—and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. The authors of this book set out to explore the inner workings of a crack gang, the truth about real estate agents, the secrets of the Ku Klux Klan, and much more. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, they show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing. 315 pages.

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

* Jeanne Laskas explores the world of “average” Americans that people rarely think about, including an Alaskan oil rig, a migrant labor camp in Maine, the air traffic control center at LaGuardia Airport in New York, a beef ranch in Texas, a landfill in California, a long-haul trucker in Iowa, a gun shop in Arizona, and the Cincinnati Ben-Gals cheerleaders. 337 pages.

*Just Mercy,* Bryan Stevenson

* Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. 352 pages.

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot

* This book delves into the issue of morality in scientific research. While she was dying from cancer, cells were harvested without permission from a poor, African American woman named Henrietta Lacks. The use of these cells have made scientific researchers millions of dollars while her descendants are so poor they can’t afford health care. This novel follows the stories of Henrietta, her surviving family, and the researchers working with her cells. 381 pages.

*A Long Way Gone*, Ishmael Beah

* This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah's harrowing journey transforms him overnight from a child enthralled by American hip-hop music and dance to an internal refugee bereft of family, wandering from village to village in a country grown deeply divided by the indiscriminate atrocities of unruly, sociopathic rebel and army forces. Beah then finds himself in the army—in a drug-filled life of casual mass slaughter that lasts until he is 15, when he's brought to a rehabilitation center sponsored by UNICEF and partnering NGOs. 229 pages

*The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, Michael Pollan

* Michael Pollan examines what he calls "our national eating disorder" in this remarkably clearheaded book. It's a fascinating journey up and down the food chain, one that might change the way you read the label on a frozen dinner, dig into a steak or decide whether to buy organic eggs. You'll certainly never look at a Chicken McNugget the same way again. Pollan's narrative strategy is simple: he traces four meals back to their ur-species. He starts with a McDonald's lunch, which he and his family gobble up in their car. Later, Pollan prepares a dinner with items from Whole Foods, investigating the flaws in the world of "big organic"; cooks a meal with ingredients from a small, utopian Virginia farm; and assembles a feast from things he's foraged and hunted. 450 pages

*The Other Wes Moore*, Wes Moore

* Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, The Other Wes Moore tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world. 250 pages.

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

* Jane McGonigal argues that people can “leverage the power of games” to fix the major problems in the world, from depression to poverty to climate change. Written for gamers and non-gamers alike, *Reality Is Broken* shows that the future will belong to those who can understand, design, and play games. 416 pages.

*The Secret History of Wonder Woman*, Jill Lepore

* Jill Lepore’s riveting work of historical detection behind the creation of Wonder Woman provided the missing link in the history of women’s rights—a chain of events that begins with the women’s suffrage campaigns of the early 1900s and ends with the troubled place of feminism a century later. \*\*Trigger warning: this book includes references to sex and bondage that some readers may find offensive. 464 pages.

*Strangers Drowning*, Larissa MacFarquhar

* What does it mean to devote yourself wholly to helping others? In *Strangers Drowning*, Larissa MacFarquhar seeks out people living lives of extreme ethical commitment and tells their deeply intimate stories; their stubborn integrity and their compromises; their bravery and their recklessness; their joys and defeats and wrenching dilemmas. 336 pages.

**AP English Language Summer Reading Assignment**

*Now that you have selected your summer reading novel, please complete the 10 reading journal entries. When you examine a chapter’s purpose, be sure that you don’t confuse it with the overarching purpose of the novel. The author will have one primary argument, but each chapter acts as a building block that creates the foundation of the primary argument.* ***Feel free to pull more than one quote from a chapter if the quotations contained within lend themselves to thorough analysis****. However, be sure that your entries span the entire novel and do not concentrate too heavily on a single part in the book.*

*Your commentary should not be a summary of the text. The analysis space is provided so that you can begin formulating your ideas on the piece, and should contain thoughts, opinions, and questions about the topics addressed in the novel. Be mindful of how your quotations contribute both to the chapter’s individual purpose as well as that of the book as a whole and articulate that within your commentary.*

*Good luck and happy reading!*

**Entry #1:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of this chapter: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Significant quote/evidence from the text** | **Analysis: What questions, opinions, connections, or thoughts do you have about this evidence?** |
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**Entry #2:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Entry #6:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Entry #7:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Entry #8:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Entry #9:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Entry #10:** Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Significant quote/evidence from the text** | **Analysis: What questions, opinions, connections, or thoughts do you have about this evidence?** |
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Upon completing your reading, please answer the following questions:

* What is the **author’s main argument** in this novel?
* Identify any possible **secondary arguments** from this novel.
* What is **missing** from the author’s argument? What should the author have included in order to have a more comprehensive or convincing argument?
* Compose three research questions you would like to explore after reading this novel.
	+ *A research question should be clear and focused. Appropriate questions will allow you to gather information from multiple sources in order to construct* ***your own unique argument****. Most solid research questions begin with* ***What, Why,*** *or* ***How****. However, beware of asking questions that are too broad or too narrow as neither will lend themselves well to research.*
		- *Examples:*

TOO BROAD Why did the chicken cross the road?

TOO NARROW How many chickens crossed North Avenue on Monday, May 12?

JUST RIGHT What are some of the environmental factors that occurred between March and mid-May that would cause chickens to cross North Avenue?

* + - *More examples of research questions that have been revised to be JUST RIGHT:*
			* Why are social networking sites harmful?→How are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter?
			* What is the effect on the environment from global warming?→How is glacial melting affecting penguins in Antarctica?
			* How has terrorism changed our world?→What effect did the 9/11 attacks have on American airline security?

Your research questions: