

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
COMPOSITION
Juniors**

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT- 2018

Ms. Doyle

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Upon completing the AP English Language and Composition course students should be able to ***analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques.*** Students should be able to apply effective strategies and techniques to their own writing as well as create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience.

To do so, students ***must be reading daily***, immersing themselves in the world of ideas through magazines, newspapers, and books. ***If a student is unwilling to read, he/she will not be successful in an AP course.*** For full descriptions, requirements, and skills needed for an AP Language course, please check out:

apcentral.collegboard.com/apc/public/courses/descriptions/index.html

This summer you will read the following 3 novels:

1. *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* - by Alexandra Robbins (*nonfiction*)

"You can't just be the smartest. You have to be the most athletic, you have to be able to have the most fun, you have to be the prettiest, the best dressed, the nicest, the most wanted. You have to constantly be out on the town partying, and then you have to get straight A's. And most of all, you have to appear to be happy." -- CJ, age seventeen

High school isn't what it used to be. With record numbers of students competing fiercely to get into college, schools are no longer primarily places of learning. They're dog-eat-dog battlegrounds in which kids must set aside interests and passions in order to strategize over how to game the system. In this increasingly stressful environment, kids aren't defined by their character or hunger for knowledge, but by often arbitrary scores and statistics.

2. *How Starbucks Saved my Life* - Michael Gates Gill (*nonfiction*)

In his fifties, Michael Gates Gill had it all: a mansion in the suburbs, a wife and loving children, a six-figure salary, and an Ivy League education. But in a few short years, he lost his job, got divorced, and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. With no money or health insurance, he was forced to get a job at Starbucks. Having gone from power lunches to scrubbing toilets, from being served to serving, Michael was a true fish out of water.

3. *Half-Broke Horses: A True Life Story* - Jeanette Walls (*nonfiction*)

"Those old cows knew trouble was coming before we did."

So begins the story of Lily Casey Smith, Jeannette Walls's no-nonsense, resourceful, and spectacularly compelling grandmother. By age six, Lily was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach in a frontier town—riding five hundred miles on her pony, alone, to get to her job. She learned to drive a car and fly a plane. And, with her husband, Jim, she ran a vast ranch in Arizona. She raised two children, one of whom is Jeannette's memorable mother, Rosemary Smith Walls, unforgettably portrayed in *The Glass Castle*.

The Assignment

Directions: Students of Advanced Placement Language & Composition must read the three summer novels and complete an assignment on each.

1. You will create a **DOUBLE ENTRY JOURNAL** for **EACH NOVEL**. The **rationale, formatting**, and an **example** is included.
2. You will need a **COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK** for this. You should have enough room in one notebook for all three journals. And yes, this is handwritten.

****This assignment is due THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for 2018****

Explanation of the Double Entry Journal Assignments.

Double entry journals teach you to explore a text by using the **critical art of close reading**. It forces you, the reader, to *slow down, focus, and think about the details, the author's style, and literary elements*.

1. **What is it?**

- A double-entry journal allows us to **QUOTE portions of the text on the LEFT side of the page** and to **use the RIGHT SIDE** of the page to **comment on/explore/depict/argue/ and make sense out of those.**

2. Rationale

The main idea behind double-entry journals is that we retain more and we learn more deeply when we reflect on our thinking. We also learn more about our strengths and challenges as readers, scholars, and writers.

3. What kind of journal should I use?

A composition notebook is fine.

4. During reading . . .

Listen to the questions and observations your mind makes as you read, and capture those “mind-noises” on paper. Some things to note in your journal – aside from the page number – might be places in the text where you:

- are confused, puzzled, or surprised
- struck by the language or an image
- can relate the text to something in your life or to another text or to something happening locally or globally
- can predict what might happen
- react strongly

5. NO CHAPTER SUMMARIES ARE PERMITTED.

6. You are to write **AT LEAST 1 THOUGHTFUL, THOROUGH (4-6 sentences) entry for every 25 pages read--even visual depictions require this writing.**

How to format your Journal

<p>During your reading, select interesting passages from the text... <i>(Left Hand Side)</i></p>	<p>Page #</p>	<p>Your comments, responses, and/or reflections to what is on the Left side... <i>(Right Hand Side)</i></p>
<p>Quotes from the text</p>		<p>Visual commentary (drawings, visual analogies, doodles)</p>
<p>Quotes from the text</p>		<p>Written reactions, reflections, commentary, musings (“Hmmm...”)</p>
<p>Quotes from the text</p>		<p>Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text to text

		<p>(Ex. This reminds me of another book I have read...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text to Self (Ex. This reminds me of the time when my mom and I...) • Text to world (Ex. This reminds me of the recent news story I read about...)
Observations, details revealed by close reading		Significance to the text
What the text says...		Why you think the text says this...
Questions: "I wonder why..."		Possible answers: "Maybe it is because..."
Quotes from texts		Questions (Clarifying & Probing): "I am confused about..."
Quotes from texts		Social Questions (Race, class, gender inequalities)
Quotes from texts		Thinking Prompts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This reminds me of... • I remember a time when... • I predict... • I think this means... • I wonder...
Quotes from texts		Naming Literary or Persuasive (Rhetorical) Techniques (similes, metaphors, personification, anaphora, etc)

7. The journal for each novel will count as a 50 pt. classwork/homework grade.

****This journal is ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.** Any late journals are subject to a **50% penalty** for being late. You will only have the first 3 days of the school year to turn this in before it remains a ZERO for the rest of eternity.

****If you have any questions regarding this assignment, email me at bdoyle@readingschools.org.**