

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING 2019-2020

Common Book

All students entering Advanced Placement English Language and Composition should read the following text before school begins in the fall:

- Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. New York: Penguin, 1985/2005. ISBN 978-014036531.

During the opening weeks of school, we will discuss and write about Postman's argument concerning the impact that changes in media and technology have had on education, political discourse, and our capacity for critical thought. With that in mind, please read with a pen in hand, making annotations that will be helpful in our discussion and writing this fall. These annotations can be modeled on the annotations you have made in previous classes, but if you are interested in additional approaches to annotation, you might consult Mortimer J. Adler's "How To Mark a Book," which is widely available online, or Peter Stephens's essay of the same title, which is available online at slowreads.com.

Pick One! (Or More!)

Additionally, all students entering AP English Language should read at least one book from the following list before school begins in the fall. As with *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, please make annotations that will help you be prepared for discussion and/or writing related to the book.

Capote, <i>In Cold Blood</i>	Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i>
Camus, <i>The Stranger</i>	Lee, <i>The City in Which I Love You</i>
Coetzee, <i>The Lives of Animals</i>	Michaels, <i>Fugitive Pieces</i>
Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>	Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>
Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Murakami, <i>Kafka on the Shore</i>
DeLillo, <i>White Noise</i>	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	Nafisi, <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>
Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	O'Brien, <i>In the Lake of the Woods</i>
Dillard, <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>	O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i>
Einstein, <i>Relativity</i>	Pirsig, <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>
Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Postman, <i>Building a Bridge to the 18th Century</i>
Florey, <i>Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog</i>	Pynchon, <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>
Gardner, <i>Grendel</i>	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
Gilman, <i>Herland</i>	Sinclair, <i>The Jungle</i>
Gladwell, <i>Outliers</i>	Spiegelman, <i>Maus I and Maus II</i>
Hawking, <i>A Brief History of Time</i>	Thoreau, <i>Walden</i>
Heller, <i>Catch-22</i>	Twain, <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Hemingway, <i>A Moveable Feast</i> (The restored edition)	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>
Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> (translated by Robert Fagles)	Watson, <i>The Heaven of Mercury</i>
Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> (translated by Robert Fagles)	Williams, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>	Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
Kerouac, <i>On the Road</i>	Zinn, <i>A People's History of the United States</i>

When we return to school in the fall, please bring the texts you've read to class. If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact Mr. Urquhart via email at turquhart@episcopalcollegiate.org.