



The Woodlands College Park High School

Conroe Independent School District

AP English III: Language and Composition 2021-22 Summer Reading

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners. Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

Dear Future AP Students,

To begin, congratulations on accepting the challenge of AP English III-Language and Composition. Let me address some things for you to know for the summer in preparation for the class. The first thing to remember is this class is about language and its use in the hands of remarkable writers. The second thing to remember is you will be writing about the writing, not about literary elements. In other words, your analysis will be focused on the choices and moves a writer makes in order to achieve a purpose. The third thing to remember is that it does not matter whether you like the writer or the writing, only that you can think, discuss, and write about both.

Summer Reading: The books listed below are modern, non-fiction selections. Choose and read one of these books before school starts. You should not rely on any form of “notes” available either in print or on-line to replace the actual reading of the selection. Let me assure you that I have visited all the sites and am aware of what is out there. Some of those sites are actually quite good, and I have utilized them myself in my study of a text, but never as a replacement of a text. I expect no less from you.

The Devil in the White City (Eric Larson)

In Cold Blood (Truman Capote)

Unbroken (Lauren Hillenbrand)

Choose one nonfiction book and make notes as you read (annotation) of extraordinary quotes, remarkable scenes, conversations, or passages that contribute to the writer’s style or to the overall impression of the book. It’s also a good idea to jot down a three-bullet-point summary at the end of each chapter. Bring your annotated book with you to school in August and be able to articulate your opinions in a group setting with other AP students as well as through written discourse.

Required Reading List:

Fall Semester

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne– any edition
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin– any edition
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald – any edition

Spring Semester

- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson– any edition
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien– any edition

One Final Note: Our first assigned novel of the school year will be *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, an important classic in American literature. Because the text is quite dense and the style elevated, *TSL* can be a challenging read for many AP students, and some of you might want to read through the text over the summer when you can take your time and read at your own pace, allowing you to familiarize yourself with the plot, characters, and setting and feel better prepared to analyze assigned sections during the school year.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Have a great summer!

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