

AP Language and Composition Summer 2017 Reading Assignment

In preparation for AP Language and Composition next school year, you are encouraged to read four books this summer; however, you are required to write extended responses on **two** of your chosen books. Please carefully read the following information so you know what is expected. This assignment is due on the first day of school in August. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete this as it will be the first unit of our school year. Feel free to email me at samcartan@blanchetcatholicschool.com if you have any questions.

1. At least one of your chosen books must be **non-fiction books**
 - There are many, many recommended reading lists and subject areas from which to choose for this novel assignment. Please see recommended reading list attached if you need some suggestions in making a choice.
2. At least one of your chosen books must be **fiction books**
 - Again, see the recommended reading list (titles labeled “FIC” are fiction).

Non-Fiction Book Analysis Assignment

At some point in your college career, you may be asked to review a non-fiction book to enable you to learn more about some aspect of your course work. The assignment is demanding because you are required to describe and evaluate an author’s contribution to a subject that you may know little about. How should you proceed?

Generally, for this type of assignment you should try to find a relatively recent work (5-7 years) of about 200-350 pages.

Describing and Evaluating

You are expected to describe the book, that is to summarize some major points of interest, and to evaluate it, that is, to make judgements about it. The areas to address include the following:

- Description:
 - Information about the author
 - Background information about the book
 - Author’s purpose- to inform? Entertain? Persuade?
 - Author’s thesis
 - Organization
 - Summary
- Evaluation
 - Other reviews of the book
 - Scholarship
 - Strengths and weaknesses

Later, you may decide to omit some of these points. Their order may be changed, with more important or striking matters appearing first. Usually the descriptive section appears first in non-fiction reviews, especially in scholarly journals. All these organizational decisions are subjective and can be revised as needed.

While reading the book, take notes of the passages and their page numbers that relate to how you can describe and evaluate the work. In particular, be on the lookout for thesis statements, chapter summaries, striking quotations, discussions of methodology, conclusions, and author’s recommendations. If you question whether or not to take a particular note, remember that it would be wiser to err on the side of having too many rather than too few. You can always eliminate notes that appear unnecessary.

Fiction Book Analysis Assignment

You must complete one activity from the list below. Be sure to reference the text in your analysis. Unless otherwise stated, each response must be at least 1 ½-2 pages, typed, 1.5 spacing, 12 point font. Each response includes:

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- Name
 - Date
 - Title of Book (Italicized) and author
 - Number of response you are completing
1. Choose a complex character who might-on the basis of the character's actions alone- be considered evil or immoral. In a well-organized response, explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might.
 2. Pretend you are a character in the novel- Write a series of letters to another character in the book inspired by events throughout the plot. Make sure your responses capture the "voice" of the character.
 3. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. Show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects on the character, and its significance to the work.
 4. Write 7 interesting, "chunky" interview questions (questions that are open-ended and warrant a detailed response) and answers for the main character.
 5. The meaning of some literary works is often enhanced by allusions to myths, the Bible, or other works of literature. Explain the allusions in a selected work and explain how they enhance the work's meaning.
 6. Make a detailed map of your book (setting). Include a legend with at least ten symbols and small paragraph explanations of the importance of the map items.
 7. Many novels and plays use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and sea) to juxtapose forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of a work. Choose a story that contrasts two such places and **explain how** the places differ, what each place represents, and **how** this juxtaposition contributes to the meaning of the work.
 8. Research a historical or controversial fact about your book and the author and write about it. *Be sure to document your sources