

AP Language Summer Reading

Required Title and Instructions

Each student should read at least one or more works from the list below. When you return to school in the fall, you should be able to write intelligently about the ideas, arguments, concepts, and writing style of each work. Pay particular attention to the central argument(s) of each work, and how the author connects with her audience. Some of these works are very challenging; make sure to read carefully and consider finding a partner to read and discuss the text with you.

A final suggestion would be to read as many articles from quality magazines like *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and/or *Harper's Magazine* during the summer as you can, paying attention to argument, style, and structure.

Environment

- *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau
- *My First Summer in the Sierras* by John Muir
- *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey
- *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold
- *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard
- *Collapse* by Jared Diamond
- *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

Education

- *The End of Education* by Neil Postman
- *Weapons of Mass Instruction* by John Taylor Gatto
- *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr
- *Shop Class as Soulcraft* by Matthew Crawford
- *Getting Schooled* by Garret Keizer

Culture

- *Shadow and Act* by Ralph Ellison
- *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman
- *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
- *The Western Canon* by Harold Bloom
- *The Art of Choosing* by Sheena Iyengar
- *Tribe: On Homecoming on Belonging* by Sebastian Junger
- *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean
- *Men at Work* by George Will
- *Black Boy* by Richard Wright
- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Story of Stuff* by Annie Leonard
- *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr
- *Everything Bad is Good for You* by Steven Johnson
- *Essays from the Nick of Time* by Mark Slouka
- *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again* by David Foster Wallace
- *I'm Not Taking This Sitting Down* by Dave Barry
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *Culture of Disbelief* by Stephen Carter
- *Stumbling on Happiness* by Steven Carter

Politics

- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville
- *The Autobiography Of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley and Malcolm X
- *The American Political Tradition* by Richard Hofstadter
- *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan
- *The Conservative Soul* by Andrew Sullivan
- *One Man's America*: by George Will
- *When Everything Changed* by Gail Collins
- *Intellectuals and Society* by Thomas Sowell
- *The Conscience of a Liberal* by Thomas Krugman
- *Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit

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Economics/Current Events

- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *The Road to Serfdom* by Frederick Hayek
- *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid
- *The Corner*: by David Simon
- *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

General Interest

- *What the Dog Saw* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

History/Philosophy

- *Immortal Irishman* by Timothy Egan
- *A People's History of the US* by Howard Zinn
- *Nixonland: The Rise of a President* by Rick Perlstein
- *The Living and the Dead: Robert McNamara and Five Lives of a Lost War* by Paul Hendrickson
- *A Terrible Love of War* by James Hillman
- *An Intimate History of Killing* by Joanna Bourke
- *Eichmann in Jerusalem* by Hannah Arendt

Media/Propaganda

- *What Orwell Didn't Know* by Andras Szanto
- *Manufacturing Consent* by Noam Chomsky
- *Media Unlimited* by Todd Gitlin

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

- *What Orwell Didn't Know* by Andras Szanto
- *Getting In* by James Finney Boylan

- *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
- *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis
- *Maid* by Stephanie Land

Science

- *The Mismeasure of Man* by Stephen Jay Gould
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- *The Third Chimpanzee* by Jared Diamond

- *1491* by Charles Mann
- *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan
- *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell
- *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- *The Great Influenza* by John Barry

- *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl
- *A Drinking Life: A Memoir* by Pete Hamill
- *Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillebrand
- *Space* by Jesse Lee Kercheval
- *The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal* by Jonathan Mooney
- *Always Running* by Luis Rodriguez
- *Hunger for Memory* by Richard Rodriguez
- *I am Malala* by Yousafzai Malala