



Summer Reading Assignments for AP 11 English

Choice Selection

Secure a copy of any book on the attached list.

There are copies available from, the PHHS Library, the Baltimore County Public Library, and through book sellers like Ukazoo Books in Towson (this bookstore will especially have these books available), Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.

Non-negotiable Selection

Secure a copy of the book: ***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

There are copies available from the PHHS Library, the Baltimore County Public Library, and through book sellers like Ukazoo Books in Towson (this bookstore will especially have these books available), Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.

Assignments for both books:

Dialectical Journal: You will complete a series of journal entries that demonstrates engagement with the text, attempts to understand the various arguments presented, and provides a sampling of your best critical thinking. At least 5 of your journal entries should discuss author's style. To help you, an "Elements of Style" handout has been attached.

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- ❖ **For each book**, you will complete a chart like the example attached to this packet. Please be professional—all information must be typed (12 point font, Times New Roman print). In addition, you must:
 - ❖ Select 9-12 meaningful passages that adequately draw from the beginning, middle, and end of each text. **This means 9-12 passages from each book.**
 - ❖ Write out the entire passage to which you will refer and include the page number from which it came.
 - ❖ Paraphrase or summarize the passage. It will be helpful to provide the context in which it came. In other words, what is happening before and after this passage appears in the text?
 - ❖ Analyze and react to the passage in full sentences—not notes. This should NOT just be a personal reaction or summary; rather, you should attempt to analyze the methods that the writer uses to make his or her argument. This is where you will show your engagement and reflection. Your analysis should be longer than the selected quotation or passage.
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Summer Reading will be assessed/collected on or before September 27th/28th.

Please keep in mind the course work for AP English 11 will require rigorous outside reading in addition to the summer assignments. You are **strongly encouraged** to use your time wisely to avoid over extending yourself during the school year.

We will be checking email periodically throughout the summer. You can email Mrs. Turner, the English department chair, with any questions you may have about the assignments.



Elements of Style

Many people use the term writer's **style** to indicate a set of identifiable characteristics that distinguishes one author from another. In short, the writer's style or voice is a sort of fingerprint used to identify that author.

Voice is an essential element of style that reveals the writer's personality. A writer's voice can be impersonal or chatty, authoritative or reflective, objective or passionate, serious or funny. Many elements of writing contribute to an author's voice or style, but three of the most important are **diction**, **syntax**, and **tone**.

Diction simply refers to the words a writer chooses to use. Are the words simple or difficult? Is the language formal or informal? What are the connotations of the words used? Are the words from a particular region of a country?

Good writers are concise and precise, weeding out unnecessary words and choosing the exact words to convey meaning. Precise words — active verbs, concrete nouns, specific adjectives — help the reader visualize the sentence. Good writers use adjectives sparingly and adverbs rarely, letting their nouns and verbs do the work.

Good writers also choose words that contribute to the flow of a sentence. Polysyllabic words, alliteration, and consonance create sentences that roll off the tongue. Onomatopoeia and short, staccato words can be used to break up the rhythm of a sentence.

Syntax refers to the way the writer arranges words. Syntax is all about structure, order, placement, and groupings. Pay attention to how many words comprise the average sentence. How is punctuation used? Notice language patterns and repetition. Are the verbs active or passive? Consider the rhythm and cadence.

Sentence fluency is the flow and rhythm of phrases and sentences. Good writers use a variety of sentences with different lengths and rhythms to achieve different effects. They use parallel structures within sentences and paragraphs to reflect parallel ideas; they also know how to avoid monotony by varying their sentence structures.

Good writers also arrange their ideas within a sentence for greatest effect. They avoid loose sentences, deleting extraneous words and rearranging their ideas for effect. Tighter, more readable style results when writers choose their words carefully, delete redundancies, make vague words more specific, and use subordinate clauses and phrases to rearrange their ideas for the greatest effect.

Tone refers to the writer's ability to create an attitude toward the subject, characters, or events in the piece. When reading, try to identify the words the writer uses to create a specific mood, attitude or tone. Sometimes one can recognize the themes by examining the tone of the writer's voice.



Dialectical Journal Example Set-Up

Student Name: John Doe

Book Name: *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*

Author: David Callahan

Quotation/Passage from the text w/page number	Paraphrase or Summary	Analyze and React
<p>I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a “bank error” that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue? I haven’t played Monopoly in twenty years, but I’d still take the \$200 today. And what if a real bank made an error in my favor? That would be a tougher dilemma. Such things do happen. (1)</p>	<p>The author is remembering that a common childhood game had a positive moment when a player received “free” cash because a bank made a mistake. This is the way the book begins and sets up the idea of the Cheating Culture.</p>	<p>By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember—not just the game, but the excitement of a “bank error” card. He also issues the question that “banks have plenty of money” so “why argue?” This really mimics what most people would probably say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn’t rightfully theirs. He moves from this game topic to a suggestion that it could really happen (which he will explain later) and suggests that it would be a “tougher dilemma.” It almost seems like this could be a sarcastic remark. I think many people would just take the money.</p> <p>We tend to view banks as huge institutions that they will not miss a few rogue dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the “little guy” is barely getting by or may not even have a job is especially prevalent now. By this question, the author seems to be trying to get us to ask if we can even justify that type of thinking. Is this the right decision to make?</p>

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading List

Saturday Night, Susan Orlean

Saturday Night is different from all other nights of the week. People get together, go dancing, go bowling, go drinking, go out to dinner, get drunk, get killed, kill other people, visit friends, sleep, gamble, watch television, go cruising, and fall in love—just as they do every other day, but on Saturday night they do these things more often and with more passion and intent.

All Over But the Shoutin', Rick Bragg

The autobiography of Bragg's upbringing in the poor and rural south of the 1960's is moving, tragic, and uniquely American. His story pays homage to the selfless efforts of his mother to raise her three young sons without the assistance of their heavy drinking and abusive Korean War vet father. Personal narrative.

A Thousand Pieces of Gold, Ruthanne Lum McCunn

Lalu is the oldest daughter of a Chinese farmer. Her father loses everything by risking his money on winter wheat one year and Lalu finds herself being thrust into poverty. Personal narrative.

Blue Highways, William Least Heat-Moon

William Least Heat-Moon drove the back roads of America in a beat up old van in the early 1980's after the breakup of his marriage and the loss of his job as a professor. He decided he needed to find something that was missing while it was still there to be found and the result was his classic travel novel *Blue Highways*. Personal narrative.

River-Horse, William Least Heat-Moon

River Horse is an account of a four-month coast-to-coast boat trip across the U.S., using the nation's waterways almost exclusively, and retraces of Lewis and Clark's frontier exploration. Descriptive personal narrative.

In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of a Lost War, Wolff

Coming almost 30 years after the events it covers, Tobias Wolff's *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of a Lost War* is the considered summation on a painful and difficult period in the author's life, and one of the most insightful accounts of the 'dirty little war' that scarred a generation even those who were not directly involved as combatants. Narrative with strong voice.

All But My Life, Gerda Weissman Klein

Gerda Weissmann Klein was 15 years old when the Germans invaded her city of Bielitz and shattered the lives of Gerda and her family taking 18 short days to conquer Poland. In this true story, Gerda reflects on the ideal life her family shared before the war, the dissolution of her family under the hands of the Nazis, the three frightening years she spent as a slave laborer in work camps, and her miraculous liberation. Narrative with strong voice.

Mrs. Turner (cturner@bcps.org)

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading List

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster, Jon Krakauer

This bestselling non-fiction book written by Jon Krakauer details the author's May 10, 1996 ascent of Mount Everest, which turned catastrophic when eight climbers were killed and several others were stranded by a "rogue storm."

Into The Wild, Jon Krakauer

This 1996 non-fiction book depicts the two-year wilderness trek of Christopher McCandless from 1990 through 1992 and is an expansion of Krakauer's 9,000-word article, "Death of an Innocent," which appeared in the January 1993 issue of *Outside*.

Stupid, White Men, Michael Moore

The book is highly critical of recent U.S. government policies in general, and the policies of the Bush administration in particular. Narrative with humor.

The Bookseller of Kabul, Asne Seierstad

This non-fiction book was written by Norwegian journalist Åsne Seierstad about a bookseller, Shah Muhammad Rais (whose name was changed to Sultan Khan), and his family in Kabul, Afghanistan. It takes a novelistic approach, focusing on characters and the daily issues that they face.

Fast Food Nation, Eric Schlosser

A book by investigative journalist Eric Schlosser that examines the local and global influence of the United States fast food industry.

Nickel and Dimed: On not getting by in America, Barbara Ehrenreich

This investigative non-fiction piece published in 2001 was written from the perspective of the undercover journalist who sets out to investigate the impact of the 1996 welfare reform on the "working poor" in the United States.

My Year of Meats, Ruth L. Ozeki

Two women on opposite sides of the globe are dealing with issues important to everyday life. Comical-satirical novel.

Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

Economics is often regarded as the study of dry, uninteresting financial trends and market developments, but Steven Levitt's groundbreaking work in the field reveals that the tools of economic research can be put to use in the study of the relationships that underlie the events and problems that we encounter and hear about every day. In *Freakonomics*, Levitt and his co-author, journalist Stephen Dubner, offer a survey of some of the most interesting research topics Levitt has tackled during his career.

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading List

The Tipping Point, Malcolm Gladwell

A book that presents a new way of understanding why change so often happens as quickly and as unexpectedly as it does. *The Tipping Point* is an examination of the social epidemics that surround us.

Outliers: The Story of Success, Malcolm Gladwell

In *Outliers*, Gladwell examines the factors that contribute to high levels of success. To support his thesis, he examines the causes of why the majority of Canadian ice hockey players are born in the first few months of the calendar year, how Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates achieved his extreme wealth, and how two people with exceptional intelligence, Christopher Langan and J. Robert Oppenheimer, end up with such vastly different fortunes.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery

The book follows events in the life of a concierge, Renée Michel, whose deliberately concealed intelligence is uncovered by an unstable but intellectually precocious girl named Paloma Josse. Paloma is the daughter of an upper-class family living in the upscale Parisian apartment building where Renée works.

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard

Combining theological, scientific, and literary inquiry, the book offers insight into the everyday world. As national and international conflicts (the Watergate break-in and the Vietnam War) prompted controversy in America, Dillard, secluded in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia, looked to the earth and its creator for clues about how to live a fully human existence.

Going After Cacciato, Tim O'Brien

This complex novel is set during the Vietnam War and is told from the point of view of the protagonist, Paul Berlin. The story traces the events that ensue after Cacciato, a member of Berlin's squad, decides to go AWOL by walking from Vietnam to France, through Asia.

Blue Pastures, Mary Oliver

The sixteen essays in *Blue Pastures* demonstrate the magical paradox of poetic voice, which somehow becomes most itself by vanishing.

Shoptimism: Why the American Consumer Will Keep on Buying No Matter What, Lee Eisenberg

Eisenberg reveals the mechanisms of manufacturing needs and wants in this book that explores every facet of retail consumption, from advertising to behavioral marketing, from malls to Internet communities.