

# AP Language and Composition

Two books are required reading over the summer.

- *Fast Food Nation*, is a required book for all,
- The other you will choose from the list provided (see page 2)

You will keep a reading journal (see page 3-5) on the books you read. It is due on the first day of school in August. All journal entries must be complete and in order for students to retain the weighted grade as summer work is worth 10% of the 1st 9 weeks.

Please read the directions concerning the content and the format carefully. Please cite any sources you consult (including Spark Notes or Cliff Notes). Your journal will be your first major grade. Much of our work in the coming year will be done via our class page, so get in the habit of checking it regularly over the summer for any updates.

As with most major works we read during the year, you will need to find these books on your own. As they are well-regarded and popular works, you should have no problem finding them at the public library or Half-Price Books. Since the list is fairly extensive, you'll need to plan accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding the reading journal, the works or the course, please don't hesitate to reach me at: [rae\\_cunningham@hboe.org](mailto:rae_cunningham@hboe.org)

# Reading List

## **Current Events:**

- *Flat, Hot, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution*—Thomas Freidman
- *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*—Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Scratch Beginnings: Me, \$25, and the Search for the American Dream*—Adam Shepard

## **Science:**

- *Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History*—Penny LeCouteur & Jay Burreson
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel*—Jared Diamond
- *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*—Jared Diamond

## **Food/Culture:**

- *The Omnivore's Dilemma*—Michael Pollan
- *Bio/Adventure: Into the Wild*—Jon Krakauer
- *Into Thin Air*—Jon Krakauer
- *True Crime: In Cold Blood*—Truman Capote

## **Philosophy:**

- *Ethics*—Aristotle
- *Sophie's World*—Jostein Gaarder

## **Memoir:**

- *The Year of Magical Thinking*—Joan Didion
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*—Alex Haley
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*—Stephen King
- *Farewell to Catalonia*—George Orwell
- *An American Childhood*—Annie Dillard

# Summer Journal

**Due: First Day of School**

## ***Fast Food Nation***

Your journal should be labeled by date, pages read, and text name. It must be typed and double-spaced. Split the book into 10 sections depending on the number of pages. So, for example if the book is 200 pages long you will need to do a journal entry for every 20 pages of reading. Each journal entry (10 total) should be no less than 250 and no more than 500 words.

DO NOT SUMMARIZE EACH SECTION!!!!

(I have read the book—so I know what happens in each section. Focus your energy on reflection, critical thought, and heightened appreciation)

Each entry should include

### **Analysis**

- Relate parts to whole.
  - For example: How does this section you are reading add/subtract from the overall theme or main idea of the book?
- Some elements to consider: theme, conflict, setting, imagery, diction tone style, imagery, and syntax.

### **Evaluation**

- Identify the values and beliefs present in the text.
  - Very Important!!!! Based on what you have read, write about what you believe are the values and beliefs of the author.
- Discuss reasons for supporting or refuting these beliefs.

- Do you agree/disagree with the authors beliefs? If so, make sure you give your reasoning behind your thought process.
- Consider what questions might be raised concerning these beliefs and values.

## Respond

- Explain personal connections you made to the piece
  - Keep this to a minimum
- What details affected you strongly? (For example, why did this piece evoke a sad memory or make you recall a triumph? Show your readers how you feel. Avoid writing simply that you liked or disliked a piece.)
- Make clear and frequent references to the text and include your reactions.

## SOAPS

### Free Choice Books (View Reading List)

For your free choice book you will be doing a SOAPS summary. This is a shorter version of the journal that you will do for Fast Food Nation. Basically, after you have finished reading the book you will answer the following questions below. Shoot for about 4 or 5 sentences per question. Explain the reasoning behind each of your answers.

### Reading for SOAPS

What is the **Subject**? the general topic, content, ideas contained in the text.

What is the **Occasion**? the time and place of the piece, the situation that provoked the writer to write?

Who is the **Audience**? the group of readers to whom the piece is directed.

What is the **Purpose**? the reason behind the text.

Who is the **Speaker**? the voice behind the text, what do you know about him/her from reading the text?

## **Book Talk**

During the first week of school you will be doing a book talk over one of your free choice selections.

**Definition:** This book talk is an appraisal of one of your free choice non-fiction selections from your summer reading. You will be examining arguments as well as techniques the author uses to explore them. You will judge how well the author accomplishes his purpose. Books Talks should be between 3 and 5 minutes.

Organize your book talk around the following requirements:

- Introduce yourself as the author.
- Diction and word choice appropriate to author portrayal
- Give some background information about yourself, including characteristics, personality traits, events, and personal relationships. Very Brief!!
- What rhetorical devices did the author use to explore your argument, values, and beliefs
- Three to five minutes
- Five Extra Credit points if you dress as the character