

# English 11 & AP 11 Summer Reading

Please contact [Courtney.Conanan@fcps.edu](mailto:Courtney.Conanan@fcps.edu) if you have any questions.

## AP Language and Composition: ONE BOOK REQUIRED (and the CHS Writing Manual)

**Rationale:** Students are required to read one 20<sup>th</sup> century work *and* the *Chantilly High School Student Writer's Guide: A Style Manual* in preparation for the study of language and composition. This Advanced Placement class aspires to mold students into critical readers and writers capable of analyzing literature on many different levels.

### **Assessment:**

- 1) A one page response on *The Devil in the White City* will be due in class during the second week of first quarter. **This assignment is listed in the box below the book choices.**
- 2) A common assessment will be administered in the second week of first quarter. Each essay question will emulate the kind of questions that appear on the AP test.

Synopsis taken from [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

### *The Devil in the White City*- Erik Larson

Two men, each handsome and unusually adept at his chosen work, embodied an element of the great dynamic that characterized America's rush toward the twentieth century. The architect was Daniel Hudson Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds—a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their deaths. What makes the story all the more chilling is that Holmes really lived, walking the grounds of that dream city by the lake.

*The Devil in the White City* draws the reader into a time of magic and majesty, made all the more appealing by a supporting cast of real-life characters, including Buffalo Bill, Theodore Dreiser, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and others. In this book the smoke, romance, and mystery of the Gilded Age come alive as never before.

Erik Larson's gifts as a storyteller are magnificently displayed in this rich narrative of the master builder, the killer, and the great fair that obsessed them both.

### *The Chantilly High School Student Writer's Guide: A Style Manual*

This manual was given to each student in the middle of his/her sophomore year in English class. It is a valuable resource containing information on the writing process, MLA format, research, works cited pages, etc. ***This manual is also available online on the CHS webpage (<http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/academics/english/index.htm>).***

**ASSIGNMENT:** Each AP Language and Composition student should have the following assignment completed by the **second week of the first quarter**.

**Read the following prompt carefully and compose a well-written, thoughtful response. Your response should meet the following criteria [point values are listed in the brackets]:**

- One page minimum
- MLA format (including the heading, margins, font, etc.)- see page 15 of the writing manual for help [4 points]
- At least 3 specific examples from *The Devil in the White City* (i.e. quotations from the text and correct parenthetical documentation)- see pages 17-19 of the writing manual for help [12 points]
- Works cited page- see page 20 of the writing manual for help [4 points]

**Prompt:** Compare and contrast Daniel Burnham and H. H. Holmes in personality and character. Use specific evidence from the text to support your claims.

## **English 11: ONE BOOK REQUIRED (and the CHS Writing Manual)**

**Rationale:** Summer reading is required of all rising eleventh grade students. Going back to school in September is much easier for those who have maintained the habit of responsive reading during the summer. Furthermore, summer reading can provide a pleasurable broadening of young people's horizons. Students who read as a source of both intellectual stimulation and overall relaxation are likely to become lifelong readers. With summer reading, students are exposed to literature that serves both the intellectual and recreational purposes. Finally, those who read throughout the summer months and on other school vacations usually become more articulate speakers and more graceful writers which is in line with the goals of the Chantilly High School English department.

### **Assessment:**

- 1) A one page response on the student's book choice will be due in class during the second week of first quarter. **This assignment will be worth 20 points and is listed in the box below the book choices.**
- 2) A common assessment will consist of a multiple choice and short essay test specific to each text which will be administered the second week of school. The test will be worth **30 points** in all English 11 classes.

Synopses taken from [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

*Choose 1 of the following books:*

### ***Hole in my Life- Jack Gantos***

In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring author desperate for adventure, college cash, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents finally caught up with them in a bust at the Chelsea Hotel. For his part in the conspiracy, the twenty-year-old Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in a federal prison. In *Hole in My Life*, this prizewinning author of over thirty books for young people confronts the period of struggle and confinement that marked the end of his own youth. On the surface, the narrative tumbles from one crazed moment to the next as Gantos pieces together the story of his restless final year of high school, his short-lived career as a criminal, and his time in prison. But running just beneath the action is the story of how Gantos—once he was locked up in a small, yellow-walled cell—moved from wanting to be a writer to writing, and how his newfound dedication helped him endure the worst experience of his life.

### ***The Glass Castle- Jeannette Walls***

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town — and the family — Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

What is so astonishing about Jeannette Walls is not just that she had the guts and tenacity and intelligence to get out, but that she describes her parents with such deep affection and generosity. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

For two decades, Jeannette Walls hid her roots. Now she tells her own story. A regular contributor to MSNBC.com, she lives in New York and Long Island and is married to the writer John Taylor.

### ***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close- Jonathan Safran Foer***

Jonathan Safran Foer emerged as one of the most original writers of his generation with his best-selling debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*. Now, with humor, tenderness, and awe, he confronts the traumas of our recent history.

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell has embarked on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey.

### ***Slam- Walter Dean Myers***

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

A love of basketball isn't necessary to enjoy this gritty, feelingly told tale, but it would certainly help. Myers (*The Glory Field*) uses contemporary urban black locutions to relay his narrator's view of the mean streets of Harlem, as well as describe some heart-thumping hoop action in a novel that, like most good sports stories, is about more than just sports. "I can hoop," says Slam. "Case closed.... You can take my game to the bank and wait around for interest." Grandiose fantasies of his future as a millionaire NBA star-or maybe a millionaire movie producer-are about all that he has on his mind, even though he is on his way to flunking out of the magnet high school he just transferred to, his grandmother is dying, his father is out of work and hitting the bottle again and his oldest friend appears to be dealing crack. Only when he is playing basketball does Slam know what moves to make and how to relate to the people around him. The rest of the time he stumbles, alienating his mother, girlfriend, teachers, even his coach and teammates. But, as the plain-speaking assistant coach tells him, "Everybody is in the game off the court," and Slam finally realizes that it's his attitude, not other people, that holds him back. Enduring truths, winningly presented.

***All English 11 students will also read:***

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- At least 3 specific examples from *your chosen novel* (i.e. quotations from the text and correct parenthetical documentation)- see pages 17-19 of the writing manual for help **[12 points]**
- Works cited page- see page 20 of the writing manual for help **[4 points]**

**Prompt:** Which character from your chosen novel is the most **dynamic**, in other words, changes the most? Cite specific details from the story to illustrate the changes this character makes.