

Future AP Psychology Students,

It's not too early to start thinking about what Psychology is, what psychologists do, and all the complex processes that happen in the human mind. To help you get started with this kind of thinking, we propose a reading assignment for the summer! Yes, in Advanced Placement classes you will even read when school is out!

You may choose one of the books on this list, or you may choose another book that is related to Psychology. Read the book this summer while you are at the beach or the pool, waiting at the dentist's office, or while someone else in your family is using the Internet! Have you ever taken notes on something that you are reading? Try it- it will be good practice for when you will really need it during the school year! If the book has been made into a movie, you can watch it after you read. Talk to people about the book. Tell them what you like about it and what you do not like about it. Tell them about the parts that are related to Psychology.

Choose whether you want to do the written review of the book or the oral review. Either way you are describing the book and sharing your opinions about it. If you watched a movie based on the book, don't review the movie- we want to hear about the book!

The review will be due during the first week of school (so, have it ready on the first day). And the grade will count toward your first quarter in AP Psychology. This is a good way to get a head start on learning as much as you can about Psychology. It also allows you to do some of the work for the first quarter before the school year actually begins!

Enjoy your book, and we look forward to seeing you at LB in the fall.

AP Psychology Teachers

## **AP Psychology BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT**

Please read a book related to Psychology this summer that you have not read before! If the book was also made into a movie, you are allowed to watch the movie, but do not do this assignment based on the movie. You may want to add a compare-and-contrast of the book and the movie as a paragraph if you think it helps your paper.

**You may choose to do either A, written review or B, oral review:**

**A. Written Review: Be prepared to submit this assignment through Turnitin.com --Your teacher will give you specific instructions for this process when it is due.** Approximately 3 pages typed and double spaced. Take notes on the problems or symptoms that develop while you read the book, and then write this review following this format. By reading your review the reader should see depth of understanding in your reading.

- 1. Identify the book completely:** author or editor, full title, publisher, and place and date of publication, fiction or nonfiction. (one line)
- 2. Describe the subject and scope of the book.** (paragraph overview)
- 3. Give information about the author,** focusing on his/her qualifications for writing this book. (one paragraph)
- 4. Outline or summarize the main topic of your book.** If there are a number of case studies (descriptions of a psychology patient), select several that you feel are particularly interesting and summarize these. (one page minimum)
- 5. Describe whether or not the author was able** to depict the psychological relationship, problem, disorder and/or therapy technique so that you understood more about it by reading this work. Use several examples/quotes to illustrate this. (List the page you are quoting from) Do not just give me quotes, but make them meaningful with your additional comments. (half a page or more)
- 6. Assess the quality of the book** in regard to both accuracy of psychological content and readability.
- 7. Proper MLA-style bibliography is always required!** Cite the book plus any other resources you used (movie, website, etc.)

A combination of the above (1-6) and a mere telling of the “who, what, why, when and where” is inadequate; your audience (your teacher) deserves to be able to make their own opinion whether they will learn anything new by reading the book and if they personally would like to read it. Your job as a reviewer is to engage the reader in thought about the book’s content, quality and merit as a psychological work.

## **B. Oral Review**

The main distinction in a written and oral book review is your audience—your teacher vs. your fellow classmates. You should explore the interesting aspects of the book read, make psychological connections clear and help tell the story of the work. If it is a piece of nonfiction or a series of case studies, briefly cover several key points or cases and then do a more extensive coverage of one or two that made the biggest impression on you. Your length should be approximately five minutes and you should be prepared to answer questions afterward.

A combination of the above (1-6 in the description of Written Review) and a mere telling of the “who, what, why, when and where” is inadequate; your audience deserves to be able to make their own opinion whether they will learn anything new by reading the book and if they personally would like to read it. Your job as a reviewer is to engage them in a discussion of the book’s content, quality and merit as a psychological work. If your book has been made into a movie, you might want to use a few short video clips to help “sell the book.” I have both VCR and DVD players in the classroom. Bring your book to class the day you are assigned to give your oral presentation.

## **AP PSYCHOLOGY READING LIST**

**These are only suggestions. Borders and Barnes & Noble have terrific psychology sections should none of these strike your fancy. Any book related to psychology will**

work, but if you chose a book that is not on this list, just email me with a brief description of the book so I can let you know if it will not work. Parents may want to know that only two of the books on this list are on the Fairfax County list of books approved for summer reading assignments; they are One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and The Man Who Thought His Wife Was A Hat.

A Beautiful Mind, **Sylvia Nasar**

**This biography of John Forbes Nash, Jr., explores the life of a man who emerged from the torture of paranoid schizophrenia, which he suffered for 30 years, to accept the Nobel Prize for economics, honoring work accomplished in the 1950s, before madness obscured his mathematical genius (Abnormal)**

A Child Called It, **Dave Pelzer & the sequel, The Lost Boy**, **Dave Pelzer**

**A boy trying to survive his mother who has abused him his entire life. He tries to escape from his mother. (Social, Abnormal, Developmental)  
If you choose this option, you must read and review both books**

A Child Called Noah: A Family Journey, **Josh Greenfield**

**A story of a family's day-to-day life living with and loving a brain-damaged child. (Neuroscience)**

An Unquiet Mind, **Kay Redfield Jamison**

**Memoir of a leading researcher of manic-depressive illness based on her experiences as a researcher, clinician, and as a person ravaged (and enriched) by the disease. (Abnormal)**

Brilliant Madness, **Patty Duke**

**Actress, Patty Duke, writes about having bipolar disorder and how it both destroys her as well as allows her a measure of "brilliance" (Abnormal)**

Cassandra's Daughter, A History of Psychoanalysis, **Joseph Schwartz.**

**History of psychoanalysis from its origins in 19<sup>th</sup> century medical science to the present day. From the couch to Prozac. (History)**

Dibbs, In Search Of Self, **Victoria Axline.**

**Dibbs presents as a child locked away in his own world...withdrawn and antisocial, unable to relate to anyone. This is a true story, written from his casenotes, classified as educationally subnormal...and then he enters therapy. (Abnormal, Developmental)**

Don't Ask Miranda, **Lila Perl**

**Miranda has an unstable home life and must change schools frequently. She is never in one place long enough to develop**

**relationships with her peers. When she is finally asked to join a group, she learns that she must cheat and steal for acceptance. (Social, Adolescence)**

Flowers For Alegernon, **Daniel Keyes**

**Charlie Gordon is a young man with an IQ of 68 who has a job at a box factory and attends night classes in an effort to improve himself. An experimental brain operation becomes available that promises to triple intelligence and Charlie decides that he wants to give it a try. (Learning, Intelligence)**

Friday's, **Patricia Lee Gauch**

**A young girl and her involvement with a group that is moving in the wrong direction. Despite warnings from her parents, teachers, and friends, she does not see her mistake until she is in serious trouble. (Adolescence, Social)**

Girl Interrupted, **Susanna Kaysen**

**Autobiographical account of psychological decompensation during late teens. The subsequent psychiatric hospitalization for two years, and the later understanding of the process. (Abnormal)**

I Never Promised You A Rose Garden, **Hannah Green**

**An adolescent girl's successful struggles with depressive and psychotic symptoms in a psychiatric hospital. (Abnormal)**

I'm Eve, **Chris Costner Sizemore and Elen Sain Pittillo.**

**Author writes of her 20 multiple personalities. (Abnormal)**

Listening to Prozac, **Peter D. Kramer**

**Controversial book by a psychiatrist who discusses the use of the drug Prozac as a treatment for depression but which also causes cosmetic changes in personality and character. (Neuroscience)**

Nobody's Child, **Marie Balter & Richard Katz** **Marie Balter spent twenty-five years of her life in mental hospitals, then went on to attend Harvard University and to assume a role as spokesperson for the mentally ill. (Abnormal)**

One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest, **Ken Kesey**

**Fictional account of a mental hospital and the healing effects of a newcomer who fought for the rights (and psychological health) of its patients (abnormal)**

Ordinary People, **Judith Guest**.

**Family deals with the tragic loss of their son and brother. (Adjustment Mechanisms, Stress and Frustration)**

Quitting The Nairobi Trio, **Jim Knipfel**.

**The author spent six months in a locked-door psych ward, only to find that life can be better on the inside. (Abnormal)**

So Much Unfairness of Things, **C. D. Byran**

**Parental pressure to succeed academically causes a young man to break the school's honor code by cheating. Instead of showing strong disapproval for his son's actions, the incident actually brings the father and son closer together. (Family Relationships, Social)**

Tales From A Traveling Couch, **Robert U. Akeret**

**A New York psychotherapist sets out to find his most memorable patients and discover what has become of their lives. (Abnormal)**

The Man Who Thought His Wife Was A Hat, **Oliver Sacks**

**At the end of the interview, at which his wife is present, P. appears to grasp his wife's head and try to lift it off and put it on his own head. "He had . . . mistaken his wife for a hat!" and other interesting cases. (Neuroscience, Abnormal)**

The Minds Of Billy Milligan, **Daniel Keyes**

**Story of Billy Milligan's 24 personalities. Milligan was the first person acquitted of a crime due to multiple personalities. (Abnormal)**

The White Seal **Rudyard Kipling**

**Kotick, a white seal, has a quest for a secluded island which would provide permanent safety from the hunters. After finding such an island, he must convince the skeptical elders to follow him to the island. (Social)**

There's A Boy In Here, **Judy and Sean Barron**

**Account of a mother and her autistic son written alternately from the viewpoint of the mother and then the son. (Abnormal)**

