

# AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

In AP Language and Composition, we expect that when you read you have a pen or pencil in hand and that you have intellectual and emotional conversations with the text. That is, you must be active readers!!

With that goal in mind, for your AP Language Summer assignment you will read, *with pen in hand*, one fiction and one non-fiction book. Choose one from each of the lists below.

Track your responses to the text in a reader-response journal (use a **composition book** for this). As you read, write your reactions to the characters, narrator, point-of-view, and plot points. *Additionally, pay specific attention to your reactions to the language used to develop the story.*

While there is no specific length requirement for your journals, *considerable and insightful* reflection should be evident. **Do not summarize what you are reading, respond to it! Summarization is not interaction.**

These reader-response journals will become an important resource during the first few weeks of class; they will be essential tools for both class discussions and writing assignments which will be used as an evaluation of your interaction with the text and an assessment of your current writing skills. Therefore, they should be thoughtfully completed and demonstrate a thorough and active reading of the texts.

## Non-Fiction Texts

*Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich

*The Boy Who Fell From the Sky* by Ken Dornstein

*Blue Highways* by William Least Heat-Moon

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Persig

*The Pirate Coast* by Richard Zacks

*Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson

*In Pharaoh's Army* by Tobias Wolff

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Attallah Shabazz

*Mockingbird* by Charles Shields

*Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

*An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard

*American Chica* by Maria Arana

*Meditations from a Movable Chair* by Andre Dubus

## Fiction Texts

*The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

*The Beet Queen* by Louise Erdrich

*Heyday* by Kurt Anderson

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

*Pigs in Heaven* by Barbara Kingsolver

*The Known World* by Edward P. Jones

*Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko

*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren

*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley