

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**  
***SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2009-10***

Purchase your own copy of *The Best American Essays, 2008*. You may order it from a local bookstore or an online vendor such as Amazon.com. This is the most recent edition of the series. Order early and expect to wait a week or so for your copy.

Read the following essays: “Becoming Adolph”; “The Constant Gardener”; “The Way We Age Now”; “Everybody’s Nickname”; “Candid Camera”; “The Ecstasy of Influence”; “The Lesbian Bride’s Handbook”; “Salamanca”; “Notable Quotables,”; “On Celestial Music”; “Cricket Fighting”; “This Old House”; “Renegade”; “Tripp Lake”; and “Extreme Dinosaurs.”

Mark up your copy of the text and/or keep thorough notes as you read. At the very least, summarize and identify the main point of each essay. You might ask yourself if that main point is convincingly made, and why or why not. Keep in mind that these are sophisticated literary essays in which the main point will not always be directly stated. You also might ask yourself why you like or dislike each essay.

During the first week of school, you will be tested on your literal understanding of the assigned essays. Expect two-five questions on each essay. The following is a sample of questions. These are the actual questions for the first required essay.

From Rich Coen’s, “Becoming Adolph.”

1. Hitler may have cut his mustache
  - a. To anger his father
  - b. To fit behind a gas mask
  - c. To prevent a rash
  - d. Before he actually thought the mustache was “dirty”
  
2. The “toothbrush mustache” of Hitler was also worn by
  - a. Buster Keaton
  - b. Harold Rogers
  - c. Charlie Chaplin
  - d. Fatty Arbuckle
  
3. The mustache may have caused world leaders to
  - a. Trust Hitler
  - b. Fear Hitler
  - c. Underestimate Hitler
  - d. Also wear mustaches
  
4. Coen thinks the mustache fell out of style for politicians because one was worn by Hitler and one by
  - a. Stalin
  - b. Wilson
  - c. FDR
  - d. Kennedy

**Questions about the summer reading may be directed to Mr. Paugh, in Room G104B and at [sdpaugh@fcps.edu](mailto:sdpaugh@fcps.edu).**