

AP Language and Composition Summer Homework

Instructor

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REQUIRED: Read and annotate the following TWO books before school begins in September 2021:

- [*Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*](#) by Trevor Noah
- [*Just Mercy*](#) by Bryan Stevenson

*Books may be purchased as a hard copy, digitally, or checked out from the library.

**We will be using the two required books at the beginning of the school year in class

OPTIONAL--Select a THIRD book to read:

- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo
- *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan .
- *The Sun Does Shine: How I found Life, Freedom, and Justice* by Anthony Ray Hinton
- *Water for Elephants: A Novel* by Sarah Gruen

**Please research the third option before checking out or purchasing to ensure you will have enough time to read it before the school year begins, some books are longer than others. The third book is OPTIONAL, just in case you want the opportunity to add more books to your “toolbox” and to experience another writer’s writing style. We will not be talking about these texts in class nor will there be any assignments given connected to these books, but you could use them as examples in timed writes throughout the year.

ANNOTATING

You need to annotate your book(s) using high-level notes, not just summary, by either writing in your book or using post-it notes throughout, a notebook, or an electronic document of your choice. Annotating keeps the reader engaged with the text. While you are reading this summer and during the school year, you can use one or more of these strategies to mark the book and include your thoughts and questions.

How to annotate?

→ Write comments to ask questions, relate to writer or characters, make connections to other texts, and/or world events, etc.

→ Write comments about the book’s characters/people involved, theme, author’s craft, plot, word choice, what you notice about how the author is crafting their argument, and/or rhetorical elements.

Suggested annotation strategies—select the strategies that best fit your reading habits:

→ Star any passages that are very important: events, decisions, or relationships.

→ Underline any sentences that made you think or appealed to you and describe your thinking.

→ Circle/highlight words that are unfamiliar or make a list of them in the back of the book.

→ Put a question mark by areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand.

→ Bracket any sentences that exemplify the theme, author's craft, rhetorical elements, or word choice. Write your thoughts about it. What is the effect of each of these choices? How does each contribute to the main argument?

→ Use the SPACE CAT Annotation Model by labeling and making sense of the following throughout the book: Speaker, Purpose, Audience, Context, Exigence (*what prompted the writer to write the book?*), Choices (*what moves does the writer make to prove their point/argument?*), Appeals (*how does the author use appeals to logic, emotion, and/or ethics to prove their argument?*), Tone

More Questions and Sentence Starters to help you annotate

What techniques does the writer use and why?

What is the effect of the rhetorical devices being used (e.g. foreshadowing, personification)?

Where does the author use punctuation and sentence structure effectively?

What are the key passages? Why are they significant?

Notice sentences/passages. Make a comment about how they affect the story or argument.

Identify what the author is DOING. Use rhetorically accurate verbs to describe this—focus on small chunks when explaining what you notice about the author's choices.

Author's Purpose/Craft

It's interesting how the author...

Something I noticed about the author's style...

I do/don't like this author's writing style because...

The author used this device/figurative language because...

The point of view is important because...

The effect of this figurative language is...

Thought starters

The descriptions of ____ show ____

The point of view shifts here because...

This scene happens now because...

This contributes to the plot by...

I noticed/think...

I wonder...

I'm surprised that...

I realized...

If ____, then...

I'm not sure why...

This excerpt makes me think that...

I used to think ____, but now I think ____

I still think ____, but I'd like to add ____.

This reminds me of...

An experience I have had like that...

This reminds me of the book _____ because...

In my mind I picture _____ when I read _____

I agree/disagree with _____ because...