

POSNACK

S C H O O L

2021 - 2022 Summer Assignments - AP Language

Required Texts:

1. *The Dante Club* - Matthew Pearl
2. *The Underground Railroad* - Colson Whitehead
3. Independent Reading Selection (IRS) - Below is a list of nonfiction books recommended for pre-AP Language. The list includes far more choices than students enrolled in the class. You should research the list to determine five possible choices. (See directions at the beginning of the list.)

Directions for Summer Reading: Read and annotate each of the three books. For #3, annotations are optional. Please try to plan your reading time wisely.

Annotation Suggestions:

- Literary Elements: similes, metaphors, imagery, specific symbols, etc.
- Predictions
- Setting: How does the setting help to drive the plot?
- Literary Connections: allusions between/among this book and other books you've read.
- Moving passages
- Questions: about characters' motivations, things that are unclear to you, etc.
- Themes
- Symbolism: pervasive to the entire book
- Mood/Tone, especially changes in mood or tone
- Characterization: How does the author portray and develop the characters?

Summative Assessments:

- #1 - You will be given an assessment in the style of the AP test - two 40 minute in-class essays.
- #2 - You will be given a take home assignment consisting of several essay questions, of which you will choose two.
- #3 - You will complete a literary analysis (template to be provided) AND present a short "book talk" in class.

AP Language Summer Reading List

Non-Fiction Independent Reading Selections (IRS)

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY:

- Review/research this list and choose at least 5 books that interest you. Feel free to "Google" the titles of interesting books to learn more about them. Each member of the class will then be given the opportunity to choose ONE book to read.
- Rank your preferences from 1 (1st choice) through 5 (last choice) and email your choices to lmash@posnackschool.org. You only need to list the 5 titles.
- Note: No two students will be able to select the same book in the end; this is where your rating scale will come into play. Please be sure to choose books you have not previously read.

Autobiography / Memoir / Biography

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *Wait Till Next Year*. (Pulitzer author about childhood and baseball)

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life*. (Somber, dark funny story of growing up in the '50's) minence)

Armstrong, Lance. *It's Not About the Bike*. (Honest, open, smart autobiography)

Ung, Loung. *First They Killed My Father*. (memoir of a young girl whose life torn apart by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia)

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit*. (Sports biography of a great American race horse in Depression era America.)

Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*. ("This is a book about the most admirable of human virtues—courage. Of special interest to those interested in politics, public life...about the kind of courage America needs— moral courage, the courage of personal integrity.)

Noah, Trevor. *Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. (Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.)

Yousafazi, Malala. *We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugees Around the World*. (The Nobel Prize winner's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement - first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved.)

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran : A Memoir in Books*. (Describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature, explaining the influence of Lolita, The Great Gatsby, Pride and Prejudice, and other works on their lives and goals.)

Krakauer, Jon. *Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman*. (Pat Tillman walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to join the Army and became an icon of post-9/11 patriotism. When he was killed in Afghanistan two years later, a legend was born. But the real Pat Tillman was much more remarkable, and considerably more complicated than the public knew...)

Nature / Adventure / Science

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm*. (Compelling tale of hard-working fishermen and their battle with Mother Nature)

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the 1996 Mt Everest Disaster*. (A harrowing tale of the perils of high altitude climbing, a story of bad luck and worse judgment and heartbreaking heroism.)

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. (In April of 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his body was found by a moose hunter. How he came to die is an unforgettable story.)

Larson, Erik. *Isaac's Storm*. (vivid account of the 1900 hurricane still deadliest of all time)

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*. (Recounts the story of the 1820 wreck of the whaleship Essex, which inspired Melville's classic "Moby-Dick," and describes its doomed crew's ninety-day attempt to survive whale attacks and the elements on three tiny lifeboats.)

Sports

Remnick, David. *King of the World*. (Muhammed Ali rose to become a racial and cultural hero in the 1950's)

Reynolds, Bill. *Fall River Dreams*. (A team searches for glory, a town searches for soul.)

Dent, Jim. *The Junction Boys*. (10 days in training camp with Bear Bryant, who would go on to become one of the greatest college football coaches of all time.)

Lewis, Michael. *Moneyball*. (How Oakland A's general manager changed baseball)

Riley, Rick. *Who's Your Caddie?* (A Sports Illustrated writer caddies for famous people.)

Powell, Robert Andrew. *We Own This Game*. (Pop Warner football in Miami run by race, politics, money)

Asinof, Eliot. *Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series*. (the Chicago White Sox gambling scandal and damage it caused)

Lewis, Michael. *The Blind Side*. (Details the life of University of Mississippi football player Michael Oher, who was raised by a crack addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family, and explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle position in the game of football.)

True Crime

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. (A nonfiction novel, the first, some say the best, in this category)

Cornwell, Patricia. *Portrait of a Killer*. (the Jack the Ripper crimes are solved?)

Bowden, Mark. *Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World's Greatest Outlaw*. (A tour de force of investigative journalism-Killing Pablo is the story of the violent rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, the head of the Colombian Medellin cocaine cartel.)

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Bugliosi, Vincent. *Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders*. Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers

History / Politics / War / Current Events

Lacey, Robert and Danny Danziger. *The Year 1000: What Life Was Like at the Turn of the First Millenium*. (facts and principles inside and outside Saxon England)

Ambrose, Stephen. *Undaunted Courage*. (Compelling story of the Lewis and Clark expedition)

Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Gems, and Steel*. (readable work of 13,000 years of history) Fleming, Thomas. *Duel*.

(story of duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton)

Menzies, Gavin. *1421: The Year China Discovered America*. (discovery before Columbus?)

Lewis, Bernard. *The Crisis of Islam*. (origins of 9-11 thru history of conflict between Islam and West)

Friedman, Thomas. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. (advances in technology and their effects on society)

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: A Realistic View of the Native American Experience in the West*.

Machiavelli, Niccolo *The Prince*. (A often referenced treatise giving the absolute ruler practical advice on ways to maintain a strong central government)

Epstein, Norrie. *Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard*. (perspective on Shakespeare's works through these sidelights, interpretations, anecdotes, and historical insights)

Gwynne, S.C. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, The Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*. (the war with the Comanches...story of Cynthia Parker whose son became the last and greatest chief of the Comanche tribe)

Cullen, Dave. *Columbine*. (What really happened April 20, 1999? The horror left an indelible stamp on the American psyche, but most of what we "know" is wrong.)

Allison, Jay. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. (features 80 Americans, from the famous to the unknown, completing the thought that begins with the title.)

Flynn, Jim and Kevin. *102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers*. (At 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, fourteen thousand people were inside the World Trade Center just starting their workdays, but over the next 102 minutes, each would become part of a drama for the ages. New York Times reporters Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn draw on hundreds of interviews with rescuers and survivors, thousands of pages of oral histories, and countless phone, e-mail, and emergency radio transcripts to tell the story of September 11 from the inside looking out.)

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. (In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943.)

Lewis, Michael. *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*. (Chronicles the events leading up to the economic crash in 2008 by following the lives of various individuals, including Steve Eisman, Vincent Daniel, Michael Burry, Greg Lippmann, Gene Park, Howie Hubler, and others.)

Collins, Larry and Lapierre, Dominique. *Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August 1944*. (Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written)