

To: Students, and their parents, taking Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (11<sup>th</sup> grade)

From: Teachers of AP English Language and Composition

RE: Summer Reading Program

The English Department of Lake Central High School would like to welcome you to AP English Language and Composition. As you know, the next year promises to be academically valuable as well as challenging. You will continue your in-depth study of language, writing, literature, and critical thinking in preparation for the AP English Language and Composition test, AP English Literature and Composition (as 12<sup>th</sup> graders), your future as a college student, and beyond into the workforce.

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a challenging and rigorous college-level writing course that investigates the uses, purposes, and effects of language. In order to prepare you for the material and skills you will encounter throughout the course, we are requiring you to participate in the Summer Reading Program. You will be reading works of literary merit and works that provide the specific and necessary background for further studies as well as completing relevant assignments that will augment your learning from day one in the AP program through your years at college.

Each student entering AP Language is required to read three books:

- One book of your choice from the Nonfiction list (attached)—Assessment of your knowledge of this book will take place upon your return to school.
- One book of your choice from the Fiction list (attached)—Assessment of your knowledge of this book will take place upon your return to school.
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien—You must write an essay over the summer, and will take a test upon your return to school. Essay instructions are attached.

Completion of these books/assignments is mandatory and will allow you to become an involved and effective student.

The assignments will be submitted both physically and electronically:

- The essay must be formatted according to MLA specifications, which includes 12 point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, and double spacing. For complete insight into MLA requirements, the Purdue Online Writing Lab website is an excellent resource: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- Additionally, the essay will be submitted electronically through turnitin.com the evening of the first day of school. You will be provided with the turnitin.com login information during the first class period.

Any questions throughout the course of the summer can be sent to Mrs. Kathryn Clark at [kclark@lcscmail.com](mailto:kclark@lcscmail.com). Although it will be summer break, I will make every effort to check my email regularly during those months.

#### **Suggested Reading:**

In addition to reading the three texts listed above, the following books are also suggested for summer reading, and for the following reasons:

- *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White. This text serves as a reference for grammar. We will directly cover very little grammar during AP Language; you are expected to have a certain level of grammatical mastery before entering the class. *The Elements of Style* text will fill in any gaps in your grammatical abilities.
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. In addition to being a commonly read text for high school juniors, this drama will shed light on Puritan culture, which will help you when we read *The Scarlet Letter*, our first quarter book.

Remember, a large portion of being successful in education is discipline; make sure to stay on top of your studies and to schedule your work out in a way that will allow you to complete it well before the end of the summer. Then, and most importantly, stick to that plan!

Yours in education,

Kathryn Clark

## Essay Assignment for Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*

The essay for *The Things They Carried* will be submitted to your teacher on the first day of class. The essay will also be submitted through turnitin.com the evening of the first class. The essay must follow MLA format, be properly headed and paged, and contain quotations from the text with internal citations (no works cited page is necessary).

The essay topic is as follows:

The genre of autobiographical fiction blurs the once-clear line between fact and story. Many writers and readers, however, find more "truth" in fiction than in a factual account of the same events. In a well-written essay, discuss the distinction between reality and fiction as explored by the author Tim O'Brien and the character/narrator Tim O'Brien in *The Things They Carried*.

- A suggested addition: Bring your knowledge of the books you read from the Fiction List and the Nonfiction list into your argument. The focus of your paper should remain on O'Brien's book, but using the Fiction and Nonfiction book of your choice to bolster your argument could be a beneficial and impressive addition.

### Two Requirements to Receive a Passing Grade on this Essay:

- Always avoid plot summary; assume your evaluator has read the work but needs your help to understand the relevance and importance of your topic.
- Visit the AP Language Canvas page at least twice over the summer. We will have writing lessons/tips posted for you there which you will be expected to incorporate into your essay.

**Length: 3-4 pages**

## Summer Reading Presentations

## AP English Language

**Assignment:** For the assessment for your FICTION and NONFICTION Summer Reading books, you will give a presentation to the class. For this presentation, you should focus on selling your book to your peers. Would you recommend these books to your classmates? Are they worth their time? What made the books amazing? or not?

**Requirements** (Your presentation should touch on the following aspects for EACH book):

- What led you to choose the books you read?
- If you initially chose a book then later abandoned it, why?
- Comment on the writing style of each book.
- Provide a brief analysis of each book.
- Quotations from your books are recommended.

**Visual Aid** (choose from the following):

- PPT/Google slides
- Prezi
- Poster board
- Book trailer (using iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, etc.)
- another format of your choice (discuss with teacher)

**Length of Presentation: 5-6 minutes**

### Fiction – Suggested Works of American Literature

Author	Work
Sherwood Anderson	Winesburg, Ohio
Saul Bellow	Henderson the Rain King
	Herzog
	The Adventures of Augie March
Paul Bowles	The Sheltering Sky
Willia Carther	My Antonia
	O Pioneers!
Kate Chopin	The Awakening
James Fenimore Cooper	The Last of the Mohicans
	The Pioneers
E.L. Doctorow	Billy Bathgate
	Ragtime
Theodore Dreiser	Sister Carrie
	An American Tragedy
Ernest J. Gaines	A Lesson Before Dying
	A Gathering of Old Men
David Guterson	Snow Falling on Cedars
Joseph Heller	Catch-22
Ernest Hemingway	The Sun Also Rises
	A Farewell to Arms
	For Whom the Bell Tolls
Zora Neale Hurston	Their Eyes Were Watching God
Jack Kerouac	On the Road
Ken Kesey	<del>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</del>
Barbara Kingslover	The Poisonwood Bible
Norman Mailer	The Naked and the Dead
Colum McCann	Let the Great World Spin
Larry McMurty	Lonesome Dove

Author	Work
Herman Melville	Moby Dick
Toni Morrison	The Bluest Eye
	Beloved
	Song of Solomon
Vladimir Nabokov	Invitation of a Beheading
	The Eye
Sylvia Plath	The Bell Jar
Chaim Potok	The Chosen
Thomas Pynchon	Gravity's Rainbow
	Crying of Lot 49
Ayn Rand	The Fountainhead
	Atlas Shrugged
	We the Living
Marilynne Robinson	Gilead
	Housekeeping
Upton Sinclair	The Jungle
John Steinbeck	The Grapes of Wrath
	East of Eden
Donna Tartt	The Goldfinch
Kurt Vonnegut Jr.	Slaughterhouse-Five
Edith Wharton	Ethan Frome AND Summer (two novellas)
	The Age of Innocence
Richard Wright	Native Son

\*Choose ONE book from this Fiction list to read over the course of the summer.

### Nonfiction – Suggested Works of American Literature

Author	Work
Adam Cohen	Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck
Simone de Beauvoir	The Second Sex
H. G. Bissinger	Friday Night Lights
Dee Brown	Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee
Bill Bryson	A Walk in the Woods
	One Summer: America, 1927
Gail Collins	When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present
Truman Capote	In Cold Blood
Nicholas Carr	The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains
Rachel Carson	Silent Spring
Joan Didion	Slouching Towards Bethlehem
Dave Eggers	Zeitoun
	What is the What
Barbara Ehrenreich	Nickel and Dimed
Jonathan Safran Foer	Eating Animals
Betty Friedan	The Feminine Mystique
Malcolm Gladwell	Outliers
Stephen Hawking	A Brief History of Time
Edward Humes	Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash
Stephen King	On Writing
Barbara Kingsolver	Animal, Vegetable, Miracle
Jon Krakauer	Missoula

Author	Work
Erik Larson	Devil in the White City
	In the Garden of Beasts
Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner	Freakonomics
Norman Maclean	Young Men and Fire
Malcolm X	The Autobiography of Malcolm X
Vladimir Nabokov	Speak, Memory
Michael Pollan	The Omnivore's Dilemma
Robert M. Pirsig	Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance
Jacob Riis	How the Other Half Lives
Mary Roach	Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers
Carl Sagan	Cosmos
Eric Schlosser	Fast Food Nation
Randy Shilts	And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic
Studs Terkel	American Dreams: Lost and Found
	Working
Henry David Thoreau	Walden
J. D. Vance	Hillbilly Elegy
Tom Wolfe	The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test
	The Right Stuff
Richard Wright	Black Boy

\*Choose ONE book from this Nonfiction list to read over the course of the summer.