

AP Language & Composition

Summer Reading Assignment

In AP Language & Composition, we analyze the craftsmanship that goes into creating an effective piece of writing. What makes it memorable? What makes it persuasive? What is it that can make writing a work of art? As you study other works and become more cognizant of what makes them effective or even beautiful, you will then apply those techniques to your own writing. This summer reading assignment is meant to give you a head start on that.

Assignment

Step 1: Define and study the vocabulary in the chart below. Knowing the definitions is not enough, though. You also need to understand the effect of each of these terms on a piece of writing. We will revisit this vocabulary throughout the year.

Step 2: Choose a nonfiction title from the list below. As you read it, keep a journal with three columns where you will write down at least 10 quotes that you found particularly effective or well-constructed. You will write the quote with the page number on the left and your explanation of what makes it effective and/or well-constructed in the middle column. Try to incorporate vocabulary terms as you write your explanations. Finally, in the right column, you will explain what the effect of each of these sentences has on the passage or the message of text as a whole. This is different from other quote journals you've done in the past. Here, you're looking at the bones of the writing--the words, techniques, and/or sentence structure employed by the author to create a desired effect.

Step 3: Choose a novel written by one of the authors in the author list below. Be sure to choose something you haven't already read. You will then keep the same style three-column journal that you're keeping in step 2. Be sure to have at least 10 entries.

Examples:

Quote and pg. #	Significance of the structure	How this contributes to the text as a whole
<p>Nonfiction example:</p> <p>"And each time there was a nuclear test, ravens watched the desert heave. Stretch marks appeared. The land was losing its muscle" (Williams 820).</p>	<p>This series of three sentences all have different structures, but, at the same time, are all a type of simple sentence. This allows for cohesiveness while avoiding sounding monotonous. Having short, telegraphic sentences also magnifies the symbolism in each since they're not buried under other information. Finally, having each example of symbolism in its own sentence gives equal weight to each of the images.</p>	<p>This essay is about a family of Mormon women in Utah who were affected by the U. S. government's nuclear tests conducted in the desert. The imagery that is emphasized through the series of simple sentences evokes not only the death of the land but also the death of a woman. The raven is a symbol of death, stretch marks and the loss of muscle are often a symbol of pregnancy and having given birth. By juxtaposing the two, the author is conveying the idea that the tests are "giving birth" to death--both of the land and of the mothers who live</p>

		there.
<p>Fiction example:</p> <p>"Talking, talking, spinning a spell, pale skin of words that closes me in like a coffin" (Gardner 15).</p>	<p>This sentence uses consonance (the -ing in the first three words) and three examples of alliteration ("Talking, talking"; "spinning," "spell," "skin"; and "closes," "coffin"), creating a poetic sound. It also begins the sentence with three present participles which is a reversal of normal sentence structure since the subject and its qualifiers often come first. This puts emphasis on the actions of the speaker rather than the speaker himself.</p>	<p>A prevalent idea within the novel is how the world and reality is created through language. Beginning this sentence with three present participles, focuses on that: he talks, therefore he spins a spell, creating his world. That fact that he's creating a coffin with those words, reveals to the reader the type of world he's constructing. The use of alliteration is also purposeful. This character laments the effect that poetry has on the people around them and how they allow it to change their reality, yet he's using poetic devices to do the same.</p>

Vocabulary

ethos	anaphora	epistrophe	antimetabole
logos	asyndeton	active voice	telegraphic sentence
pathos	metonymy	passive voice	anastrophe
diction	antithesis	polysyndeton	elliptical construction
syntax	epithet	cumulative sentence	anadiplosis
didactic	litotes	amplification	parallelism
rhetoric	zeugma	syllogism	antonomasia
	periodic sentence	synecdoche	invective
	loose sentence		

BOOK 1: One book of your choice from the nonfiction book list.

- Please note: If you choose something outside of this list, I want you to read a book written somewhat recently (within 0-20 years) that has earned some critical acclaim (bestseller, book list). **Email me to clear any choice outside of this list.**

BOOK 2: One book by an author from the Recommended Fiction Author List

- **PLEASE, NOT A BOOK YOU HAVE ALREADY READ!** If you liked a book from a specific author, choose another one he or she has written.

Current Nonfiction Book List

The full-length works below represent a range of nonfiction from approximately the last decade arranged by topic. (I can't take credit for most of these lists; I borrowed them from another AP Lang teacher.)

Current Events

- *Five Days at Memorial*, Sheri Fink
- *Detroit City is the Place to Be*, Mark Binelli
- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, Katherine Boo
- *Thank You for Your Service*, David Finkel
- *Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make this Country Work*, Jeanne Marie Laskas
- *The Long Walk: The Story of War and the Life that Follows*, Brian Castner
- *Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman*, Jon Krakauer

Digital

- *Exploding the Phone: The Untold Story of Teenagers and Outlaws who Hacked Ma Bell*, Phil Lapsley
- *Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker*, Kevin Mitnick
- *Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter*, Steven Johnson
- *Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*, Jane McGonigal

Sports

- *Collision Low Crossers: A Year Inside the Turbulent World of NFL Football*, Nicholas Dawidoff
- *Muck City: Winning and Losing in Football's Forgotten Town*, Bryan Mealer
- *Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen*, Christopher McDougall
- *Over Time: My Life as a Sports Writer*, Frank Deford

Popular Culture

- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*, Susan Cain
- *Rejuvenile: Kickball, Cartoons, Cupcakes and the Reinvention of the American Grownup*, Christopher Noxon
- *The Know it All*, A.J. Jacobs
- *Moby Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*, Donovan Hohn

History

- *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of those Who Survived the American Dustbowl*, Timothy Egan
- *Arc of Justice*, Kevin Boyle
- *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*, Eric Larson

- *In The Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Berlin*, Eric Larson
- *Color: A Natural History of the Palette*, Victoria Finlay

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

- *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West*, Dorothy Wickenden
- *Blue Nights*, Joan Didion
- *Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock*, David Margolick
- *Miracle Boy Grows Up: How the Disability Rights Revolution Saved My Sanity*, Ben Mattlin
- *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey From the Inner City to the Ivy League*, Ron Suskind

Science

- *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*, David George Haskell
- *The Sixth Extinction*, Elizabeth Kolbert
- *The Girls of Atomic City, The Untold Story of Women Who Helped Win World War II*, Denise Kiernan
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot
- *Annoying: The Science of What Bugs Us*, Joe Palca & Flora Lichtman
- *That's Disgusting: Unraveling the Mysteries of Repulsion*, Rachel Herz
- *Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers*, Mary Roach
- *Gulp: Adventures of the Alimentary Canal*, Mary Roach
- *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*, Oliver Sacks
- *Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything*, Joshua Foer

Food

- *Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us*, Michael Moss
- *Birds Eye: The Adventures of Curious Man*, Mark Kurlansky
- *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Ruined Our Most Alluring Fruit*, Barry Estabrook
- *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food*, Jennifer B. Lee
- *Eating Animals*, Jonathan Safran Foer
- *Salt*, Mark Kurlansky (really, anything by him is worth reading)

Travel

- *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World*, Eric Weiner
- *My Kind of Place: Travel Stories from a Woman Who's Been Everywhere*, Susan Orlean
- *Cross County: Fifteen Years and 90,000 miles on the Roads and Interstates of America with*

Lewis and Clark, a Lot of Bad Motels, a Moving Van, Emily Post, Jack Kerouac, My Wife, My Mother-in-Law, Two Kids, and Enough Coffee to Kill an Elephant, Robert Sullivan

Recommended Fiction Author List

Fiction Author List for Summer Reading

18th-19th c	Early 20th c	Late 20th c	Late 20th c	Late 20th c
1700-1899	1900-1960	1960-Present	1960-present	1960-present
James Fenimore Cooper	Flanner O' Conner	Robin Cody	Carson McCullers	David Guterson
Benjamin Franklin	Tillie Olson	Joseph Heller	Ursula LeGuin	Alice Munro
Washington Irving	John Hersey	William Goldman	Bernard Malamud	David J. Duncan
Edgar Allan Poe	Zora N.. Hurston	Ernest Gaines	N. Scott Momaday	Thomas Berger
Ralph W. Emerson	Jack Kerouac	Cormac McCarthy	Toni Morrison	Grace Payley
Herman Melville	John O'Hara	Maya Angelou	Bharati Mukherjee	Norman MacLean
Nathaniel Hawthorne	Katherine Porter	Larry McMurtry	Gloria Naylor	Garrison Keillor
Henry D. Thoreau	J.D. Sallinger	Craig Leslie	Joyce Carol Oates	Bobbie Ann Mason
Mark Twain	William Saroyan	Barbara Kingsolver	Sherman Alexie	Jack Kerouac
Harriet B. Stowe	Issac B. Singer	Anna Quindlen	Chaim Potok	Norman Mailer
Kate Chopin	John Steinbeck	Fannie Flagg	Philip Roth	David Sedaris
Bret Harte	James Thurber	Margaret Atwood	Leslie Silko	Betty Smith
Sarah O. Jewett	Eudora Welty	W.P. Kinsella	Jane Smiley	Tom Wolfe
Hart Crane	Thomas Wolfe	Isaac Asimov	Wallace Stegner	
	Richard Wright	Saul Bellow	William Styron	
	James Michener	Ray Bradbury	Amy Tan	
	Roberson Davies	Truman Capote	Anne Tyler	
	Pearl Buck	Raymond Carver	John Updike	
	John Knowles	Sandra Cisneros	Alice Walker	
	Henry James	Annie Dillard	James Welch	
	Theodore Dreiser	E.L. Doctorow	Kurt Vonnegut	
	Steven Crane	Ivan Doig	William Kittridge	

	H.D. Lovecraft	Michael Dorris	Rudolfo Anaya	
	Sylvia Plath	Louise Erdrich	Tim O'Brien	
		John Irving	William Gibson	
		Ken Kesey	Gordon Parks	
		Jamaica Kincaid	Annie Lamott	
		Maxine Hong Kingston	Vladimir Nabakov	

Classic	Science Fiction/Fantasy	Historical Fiction	Contemporary	Contemporary
Jane Austen	Douglas Adams	Geraldine Brooks	Chinua Achebe	Salman Rushdie
James Fenimore Cooper	Isaac Asimov	Forest Carter	Isabel Allende	Amy Tan
Daniel Defoe	Ray Bradbury	Margaret Craven	Sherman Alexie	Anne Tyler
Charles Dickens	A.C. Clarke	Hilary Mantel	Maya Angelou	Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
Fyodor Dostoyevsky	Ursula LeGuin	William Martin	Margaret Atwood	Alice Walker
Alexander Dumas	JRR Tolkien	Lisa See	Sebastian Barry	Tobias Wolff
George Eliot	Philip Pullman	Jeff Shaara	Michael Chabon	
William Faulkner			Sandra Cisneros	Naguib Mahfouz
F.Scott Fitzgerald			E.L. Doctorow	Cormac McCarthy
Thomas Hardy			Roddy Doybe	Gregory Maguire
Ernest Hemingway			Margaret Drabble	Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Vitor Hugo			Louise Erdrich	Carson McCullers
James Joyce			Alice Hoffman	Alice McDermott
John Steinbeck			Zora Neale Hurston	Ian MacEwan
Mark Twain			John Irving	Toni Morrison
Edith Wharton			Ha Jin	Joyce Carol Oates
Virginia Woolf			Barbara Kingsolver	Tim O'Brien
			Jamaica Kinkaid	Flannery O'Connor
			Jhumpa Lahiri	Chaim Potok
				Annie Proulx
				Anrundhati Roy