

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to the Advanced Placement English program at St. Patrick Catholic High School! I look forward to a productive, challenging, and intellectually stimulating year together. During the summer you will read a minimum of three novels: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and a nonfiction novel of your choice. We will intertwine social issues into our study and discussion of these novels in order to begin preparation for the national test in AP English Language and Composition. The assignments included in this packet are designed to serve as the basis for our discussions and activities at the beginning of the school year. A complete copy of this assignment will be placed on the SPCHS website for access as well as on my classroom website at: <http://mrsbuckley-apenglish.weebly.com/>. The summer reading assignment is divided into three parts:

Part I: Reading of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

(Assessments will occur during the first week of school)

Part II: Reading of *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

Part III: Nonfiction Novel Book Review and Presentation

Each part is outline for you in this packet. Much of your summer assignments will be turned in through our class website at <http://mrsbuckley-apenglish.weebly.com/>. *Note: All work is expected to be completed on a computer. If one is not available to you, please know that our local libraries have computers and printers for public use.*

All activities are also outlined again on this website, so it will become a vital part of your AP English Language journey this summer. Make yourself comfortable with the site because we will also use it heavily throughout the year. *Note: Many college courses are now web-based, so becoming familiar with using a website to submit assignments and comments to forums will greatly enhance your ability to succeed in a college atmosphere.*

Please note: All written work is to be original. Do not work on these assignments together. Please be forewarned that phrases, sentences, and/or ideas copied from analytical sources (either paper or online) will result in **no credit** for the assignment. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course.** Contact me via e-mail (aschoendorf@stpatrickhighschool.net) should you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignment. Please be patient if I do not respond right away. I will not be able to check my e-mail everyday over the summer months.

Also, if you include references or direct quotations from the summer reading texts, you must use MLA format in order to cite your sources. For more information about documenting sources, please visit the class website at <http://mrsbuckley-apenglish.weebly.com/> or explore the information at the Purdue Online Writing Lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

PART I: Summer Reading Novel: *The Scarlet Letter*

STEP 1: As you read *The Scarlet Letter*, you will complete the discussion questions found on the class website at <http://mrsbuckley-apenglish.weebly.com/>. These questions will be in forum format so that you will be able to see others' responses and to respond to those answers. Also, due to the fact that this novel is college-level material, you will also be able to ask me any questions for clarification on this forum. I will also participate in this class discussion forum. You will have until **July 31** to respond to ALL discussion questions on the forum. The discussion questions and test will be online by June 3.

STEP 2: Near the end of the 2013-2014 school year, you will be encouraged to take the national AP test in the hope of earning 3 college credits. In order to prepare you for this exam, you will take an AP-style multiple-choice test on *The Scarlet Letter*. I will use this as a diagnostic test to measure your prior knowledge and readiness for the advanced placement program. **Please do not collaborate on the test.** I will award you completion points for attempting the questions. Your actual score on the multiple choice test **will not** affect your grade in the class. Therefore, you should not feel the urge to collaborate with others. Please be aware that the types of questions you will encounter on the AP exam are much more difficult than what you have experienced in previous English classes. Do not be alarmed if you feel overwhelmed by the difficulty of the questions – this is a normal reaction. Simply try your best. You must complete the test prior to the first day of school.

PART II: Summer Reading Novel: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

Have you ever wondered: "Did the author mean to do that?" King's book, which is subtitled *A Memoir of the Craft*, provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, "What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done." In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) The book is divided into four sections: **C.V., Toolbox, On Writing, and On Living: A Postscript**. Your assignments will, likewise, be divided into four sections. *For each assignment below, please include MLA in-text and post-text documentation for the passages discussed.* Submit your assignment via the class website by **July 31, 2013**.

Task # 1: C.V.

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e., imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces. Identify three passages in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. Explain the elements/techniques he uses and why they are effective.

Task # 2: Toolbox

Create a writer's toolbox for yourself. Identify 7 rules of writing that King discusses (include the page number), which you think are important or interesting. Then, add an additional 7 rules of writing which you have either practiced or been taught throughout your school career. Example: Don't begin a sentence with "and." In class, we will discuss the merit of these various "rules."

Task # 3: On Writing

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose three key passages from this section in which King defines writing, either directly or figuratively. In your own words, restate King's point about writing in the passage and why you think this point is interesting or important.

Task # 4: On Living: A Postscript

This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person. Would you consider reading one of his books now, for example? (If you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book? Support your answers to both prompts with evidence from the text.

PART III: Nonfiction Book Analysis and Presentation

The AP English Language and Composition course suggests a strong emphasis on nonfictional texts. Because most of the selections that you are required to read during the school year are fictional novels, we are asking you to read, review, and present a nonfiction work. Nonfiction includes the following genres: autobiography, biography, memoir, and all other accounts that are true.

Assignment: Choose a full-length, nonfiction work by an American author. Read it, and then complete a book analysis and Photo Story presentation (instructions to follow). When you return from summer break, you will present your novel to the class in the form of a Photo Story. Therefore, this assignment is due on the first day of class.

Below is a list of suggesting nonfiction novels by American authors. In order to confirm your book choice, you MUST go to <http://mrsbuckley-apenglish.weebly.com/> and type your name and book choice into the "comments" section of the Summer Reading Forum. You may not choose a book that another student has already posted in the forum. In other words, if someone else has already posted the book, you must choose another! You may also find an American nonfiction novel of your choice, but you must email me at aschoendorf@stpatrickhighschool.net in order for it to be approved. Please remember, this is a college-level program. Therefore, your book selection should be appropriate for a college-level course.

Below is a list of suggested nonfiction novels:

(Please note: Some of these novels include mature language and adult content)

<i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell	<i>How Starbucks Saved My Life</i> by Michael Gates Gill
<i>Into the Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer	<i>Three Cups of Tea</i> by Greg Mortenson*
<i>The Overachievers</i> by Alexandra Robbins	<i>The Perfect Storm</i> by Sebastian Junger
<i>Escape</i> by Carolyn Jessup	<i>A Little Bit Wicked</i> by Kristin Chenoweth
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot	<i>Miss O'Dell</i> by Chris O'Dell
<i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls	<i>In a Heartbeat</i> by Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy
<i>Running with Scissors</i> by Augusten Burroughs	<i>Have a Little Faith</i> by Mitch Albom
<i>Beautiful Boy</i> by David Sheff	<i>The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating</i> by Elisabeth Tova Bailey
<i>Kabul Beauty School</i> by Deborah Rodriguez	<i>Your Father's Voice</i> by Lyz Glick
<i>Prozac Nation</i> by Elizabeth Wurtzel	<i>Fighting Back</i> by Deena Burnett
<i>Seabiscuit</i> by Laura Hillenbrand	<i>Girl, Interrupted</i> by Susanna Kaysen
<i>A Child Called "It"</i> by Dave Pelzer	<i>A Devil in the White City</i> by Erik Larson
<i>A Million Little Pieces</i> by James Frey*	<i>The Last Lecture</i> by Randy Pausch
<i>Electroboy</i> by Andy Behrman	<i>Lucky</i> by Alice Sebold
<i>Black Hawk Down</i> by Mark Bowden	<i>My Friend Leonard</i> by James Frey
<i>Angela's Ashes</i> by Frank McCourt	<i>Fast Food Nation</i> by Eric Schlosser
<i>She Said Yes</i> by Misty Bernall	<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich
<i>Teacher Man</i> by Frank McCourt	<i>Sutton</i> by J.R. Moehringer*
<i>Catch Me If You Can</i> by Frank Abagnale	<i>All the President's Men</i> by Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward
<i>Tweak</i> by Nic Sheff	<i>The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood</i> by Jane Leavy
<i>The Zookeeper's Wife</i> by Diane Ackerman	<i>Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power</i> by Richard Carwardine
<i>The Innocent Man</i> by John Grisham	<i>I Beat the Odds</i> by Michael Oher
<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i> by Azar Nafisi	<i>I Never Had It Made</i> by Jackie Robinson, Alfred Duckett
<i>In Cold Blood</i> by Truman Capote	

*The authors of these novels have released disclaimers that some of the information provided in the novel is not truthful and/or embellished.

Microsoft Photo Story Presentation

Featuring your selected nonfiction novel

Step 1. Please visit the following website to download your free Photo Story 3 for Windows:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx>

Follow the online instructions for downloading the program. Although the program claims that it is only compatible with Windows XP, it will work with Windows 7 (I tried it myself). You may use iMovie if you are more comfortable with a Mac, but your video should include mainly photos.

Step 2. You may wish to familiarize yourself with the program prior to completing the project. A step-by-step tutorial can be accessed online at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/tips/firststory.mspx>.

Why not practice using the program to showcase your own pictures from a family vacation, prom, or other memorable event?

Step 3. To meet **minimum** requirements, **20 pictures** must be used to feature your nonfiction novel. Create a folder and save various pictures from the Internet or digital camera. Follow the directions in the tutorial to create your presentation. Your presentation should be approximately 5 minutes in length (no longer).

Step 4. Text and/ or voice must be added to narrate your presentation. Be sure the text you include is clearly visible. If you have the capabilities to add voice narration, you will eliminate the need to speak directly to the class as part of your presentation. If you do not include voice narration, prepare note cards so you may effectively speak to the class while your Photo Story is being presented. Also, add music to your presentation by either selecting a song that has relevance to the novel or by creating your own musical accompaniment (see tutorial).

Step 5. Save your presentation to a flash drive or CD for submission on the **first day of class**. You may e-mail the presentation to your instructor **if** you do not have access to either of these storage devices. If you choose to e-mail the presentation as an attachment, I will confirm receipt of your presentation. Print my response as verification that the file was successfully received.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Your Photo Story Presentation **MUST**:

- Identify title and author
- Establish setting (time and place)
- Introduce major characters and provide brief description of each
- *Briefly* narrate story (don't give away the ending)
- Provide author's background information
- Identify author's purpose (reason for writing) and tone (author's attitude)
- Comment on author's writing style (word choice, sentence structure, organization, use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, etc.)

This assignment is worth 80 points of a test grade (the other 20 points includes the book analysis below). You must complete all of the requirements in order to earn full credit. Additionally, the overall quality and organization of the presentation will be assessed. Remember to bring the presentation with you on the first day of school.

AP English Language Nonfiction Book Analysis

Answer the following questions pertaining to the nonfiction novel that you choose to read. Respond to each question in a short paragraph comprised of 5-8 sentences. The book analysis is worth 20 points (2 points per question) of your overall Nonfiction Presentation test grade. You will be assessed on the quality and thoughtfulness of your responses, in addition to the conventional rules of writing. **Please type the questions** above each response. Submit your answers to the class website by **the first day of school**.

1. What is the significance of the title, and what can we conclude from the title before opening the text?
2. What is your visceral reaction to the text and why did you react this way?
3. What is the most important event or passage in the text and why?
4. What parts distract from the work's overall effectiveness and why?
5. What dominant themes permeate the text?
6. What patterns have you discovered in the text?
7. What confuses you or makes you wonder about the text?
8. What questions do you have after reading the text?
9. Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
10. What effect does the book have on your beliefs, thoughts, and/or theories? Explain.

A deduction will be taken for writing that does not follow the standard conventions of written English. If you use examples from the novel, make sure to use MLA documentation.