

# 11 AP Summer Reading Athens High School

## 2020 Summer Reading Book Choices

### Read two of the following nonfiction books:

Amoruso, *#Girlboss*  
Angelou, *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings*  
Ansari, *Modern Romance*  
Bayoumi, *How does it feel to be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America*  
Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*  
Brown, *The Boys in the Boat*  
Capote, *In Cold Blood*  
Cain, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*  
Coates, *Between the World and Me*  
Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*  
Ehrenreich, *Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*  
Fey, *Bossypants*  
Fink, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*  
Gladwell, *Blink, David and Goliath, Outliers*  
Griffin, *Black Like Me*  
Hillenbrand, *Unbroken*  
Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*  
Krakauer, *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town, Into the Wild, Into Thin Air*  
Lamott, *Bird by Bird*  
Levitt & Dubner, *Freakonomics, Think Like a Freak*  
Lewis, *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*  
McBride, *The Color of Water*  
McCourt, *Angela's Ashes, Teacher Man*  
McDougall, *Born to Run*  
Obama, *Dreams from My Father*  
Rawlence, *City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp*  
Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*  
Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*  
Shetterly, *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*  
Smith, *Ordinary Light*  
Stevenson, *Just Mercy*  
Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*  
Warrick, *Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS*  
Wright, *Black Boy*  
Yousafzai, *I Am Malala*

### Read two of the following fictional novels:

Chopin, *The Awakening*  
DeLillo, *White Noise*  
Diaz, *Drown*  
Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*

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Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
Erdrich, *Beet Queen*  
Eugenides, *Middlesex*  
Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*  
Foer, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, Everything is Illuminated*  
Frank, *Alas, Babylon*  
Frazier, *Cold Mountain*  
Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*  
Harbach, *The Art of Fielding*  
Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*  
Heller, *Catch-22*  
Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Kite Runner*  
Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*  
Nguyen, *The Sympathizer*  
Plath, *The Bell Jar*  
Smith, *On Beauty*  
Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*  
Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*  
Walker, *The Color Purple*

## NOTE:

Again this year we're emphasizing choice and freedom in your summer reading selections. We want you to read widely and deeply, a wish that stands in contrast to the very nature of a required summer reading list. Therefore, if you wish to substitute a work of nonfiction or a work of American fiction for the choices above, you may e-mail **Ms. Nagi** ([hnagi@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:hnagi@troy.k12.mi.us)) or **Ms. Besl** ([sbesl@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:sbesl@troy.k12.mi.us)) to request the change. Any text you select, though, should be substantial, collegiate, and worthy of standing next to those on this list.

**In addition to reading these four books, you have two extended responses to complete and a Top Ten Events of Summer 2020 to complete. Those activities appear on the following pages.**

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## 2020 Summer Reading Extended Responses

1. Please write a response of approximately 250 words for one of your nonfiction books. Prompt:

As we read nonfiction throughout our course, you will often hear us ask, "What is the author's purpose?" More specifically, we'll ask you to consider how a writer uses language to achieve a specific purpose. So let's focus our attention on author's purpose in our summer reading nonfiction selections. Choose one of the nonfiction books you read. Write a response that comments on the author's purpose and his or her use of language. **Choose a brief passage from the book and explain how it achieves the author's purpose through specific language choices** (i.e. diction, syntax, figures of speech, etc.). Remember that an author might be achieving multiple purposes in any given work. There are innumerable ways to respond to this prompt, so feel free to explore.

2. Please write a response of approximately 250 words for one of your novels (fiction books). Prompt:

Throughout the first semester, we will in some way unpack the relationship between American literature and the progression of American thought. This is a great time to consider this macro-idea, since you are fresh off a year of American history study. So, for this response, consider the ways in which one of your summer reading novels reflects the American experience (i.e. how is this text a representation of American ideals, shared values, culture, etc.). You may approach this prompt in any way you wish, but be specific and detailed. It would be a great idea to quote specific passages from the novel you choose.

**\*Both typed responses will be due by the end of the second week of school.**

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## Top Ten Events of Summer 2020

The AP Language and Composition Exam does not require studying. It requires preparation. Your preparation for this exam did not begin with an honors English class at Athens or before but whenever you first started to use rhetoric as a means to achieving your ends. It was probably something like pointing to your bottle or a toy accompanied by a powerful cry to emphasize to mom or dad (your audience) that you *really* wanted it.

You've grown since then. Perhaps now you even marshal proper English and an army of rhetorical strategies to ensure that you always get your way.

In 11 AP, your ability to assess and employ rhetoric will be developed. Consider the AP Lang exam—Wednesday, May 12, 2021—to be a marathon. Running a marathon—or taking this exam—does not just happen, at least not if you want to perform your best. You need to train. You need to log hundreds of miles. You need to prepare a body of work from which you can draw when the big day comes.

Reading and writing is essential training. Do both as often as possible. Read all different genres. Write poems, journals, essays, tweets, letters.

The training for this summer assignment concerns something with which you may not associate with English class. We'll call it being aware.

The readers of the AP Language and Composition Exam, when asked what message they would give to teachers to help students improve, wrote:

*"Encourage students to read and learn about the world beyond their immediate sphere of action. Students who know more about the arts, history, science, politics, economics, law, and philosophy do better on the argument question because they have reserves of knowledge to draw from in formulating a response. Students should keep up with news developments around the world."*

The book list for your summer reading has been developed to give you exposure to new knowledge and current ways of thinking. The goal of this assignment is to further generate these "reserves of knowledge" and to develop a habit: being aware.

Throughout the summer, read good newspapers, magazines, and/or websites and create a Top Ten Events of the Summer of 2020 list. Keep a log of citations, headlines, and storylines. You may pick one story from the world of sports and one story from the world of entertainment, but the rest should come from the issues of domestic, international, environmental, economic, etc. concern."

For each of the ten stories you select, write a brief paragraph that demonstrates why you feel it is one of the top ten stories of summer. Make sure you do not merely summarize the event, but evaluate the implications of it.

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## **Suggested Resources**

Information has never been more accessible. Use whatever works for you. We suggest checking in daily with blogs, link aggregators, and standard news sites. An easy way to consolidate all of these would be to follow some of your favorites on Twitter, but do whatever works best for you. Be advised that the world (and the internet that reports on it) can be a big, unfamiliar, scary place. We don't endorse offensive world events or author opinions over which we have no control, nor do we wish to manipulate your beliefs other than, of course, you having beliefs and the ability to defend them. Be open-minded.

Here are some sources you may look to in your quest for knowledge:

**The Browser** – [thebrowser.com](http://thebrowser.com) – collects quality articles from reputable sources around the internet. There is a pay-wall after a certain number of views, but the location of the article is always listed in the description.

**Medium** – [medium.com](http://medium.com) – also collects articles and publishes their own.

**Drudge Report** – [drudgereport.com](http://drudgereport.com) – collects articles from around the internet.

**Marginal Revolution** – [marginalrevolution.com](http://marginalrevolution.com) – Economics blog, great for its daily links post (all topics, not just econ).

If you have a library card, you can access **Zinio** and get free, current downloads of hundreds of magazines.

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**\*Your typed Top Ten Events of Summer 2020 list will be due by the end of the second week of school.**

You can order them by importance or not—it's up to you. Title each event and write a paragraph that demonstrates its importance. You may wish to include quotes from articles that you have read that can speak powerfully for the event. If you need a guide as to what should be in this paragraph, consult the descriptions found at The Browser.

Be sure to properly cite the resources you use. Evidence directly pulled from sources must be cited in quotes with an in-text citation. Additionally, please include a Works Cited page at the end of your document. It would be to your benefit (for this assignment and beyond) to read a variety of articles on a given topic.