

To: Students Taking Eng3AP
From: Mr. Gottilla
Re: Summer Reading

Welcome to English III: Advanced Placement Language and Composition.

For many years I have placed on a wall in my classroom a quotation from the Greek philosopher Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

A summer reading requirement is not meant to coerce occasional and involuntary acts of reading but, instead, to encourage the habit of reading—a habit that will serve you better than expensive test-prep courses, last-minute cramming, and other such shortcuts to success. Don't settle for these substitutes. Instead, read willingly and often; read more than just what's required.

Required:

1984 by George Orwell
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Annotate, as illustrated on the accompanying sheets, these two books. Both titles are divided into three large parts. On average, provide five annotations for each part of 1984 (the longer book) and four annotations for each part of Fahrenheit 451. In addition, select from each book one page that you judge to be of particular significance and annotate it thoroughly with your reader responses to its content and style. "Personally annotating a book is a way to make the book yours. It now contains your ideas and inquiries as well as the author's."

And read at least one work of nonfiction from the following list. Since you do not need to show annotations for this book, you do not need to purchase a print copy.

Burst: A Story of God's Grace When Life Falls Apart by Kevin Wells
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride
Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science by Atul Gawande
Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom by Blain Harden
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
My Life with the Saints by James Martin, SJ
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore
Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls by Mary Pipher

You are to complete one of the following projects on this required third book.

A Collage

A collage is a visual representation of images—a creation of art, not random pictures stuck on a paper. Find a minimum of twenty photos, drawings, pictures, words, phrases, or objects that reflect your connection to and understanding of the book and its themes. Assemble these items thoughtfully. Avoid a rectangular poster board; instead, choose a shape that may relate to the book. On a separate sheet of paper, write brief explanations (about three sentences) for every image on the collage and its relevance to the book.

A Speech

Write a speech that the author would give if he or she were to visit Union Catholic. Deliver it (not from memory) to the class. The minimum length is three minutes.

An Interview

Create an interview between you and the author. It should be professional in nature and cover some of the book's themes, interesting stories, or anecdotes. Present it electronically or provide written copies for a live reading. Aim for four to five minutes.

A Dramatization

Adapt a scene or two from the book into a play or screenplay. Present it electronically or provide written scripts for a live performance. Aim for a four-minute scene.

A Painting

This painting on canvas should provide images that represent or symbolize one of the book's main ideas. It must be accompanied by a 250-word written explanation.

A Mobile

A mobile is an artistic structure composed of dangling forms which move with any movement of the air. Using a minimum of ten three-dimensional images, create a mobile that reflects the ideas and events of the book. On a separate sheet of paper, write brief explanations of each image and its relevance to the book.

A Timeline

Construct a timeline of ten of the main character's (in most cases the author's) experiences. Choose five of them and explain, in about fifty words for each, why they are important to the book.

A Diary with Poems

Write a minimum of three poems and three diary entries that come from the mind and experiences of the main character (or author). Write as the character might write. The diary entries should be hand-written and at least one page each.

A Cover Story

Create a magazine cover story based on the book. Choose a specific magazine to write for. Is it aimed at teenagers or older adults, women or men, certain professionals or a general

audience? Write in the style appropriate to the magazine. Include at least one visual and about 500 words of text.

A Fact Search

Go beyond the book with this search for new information. The authors of all ten of these nonfiction selections are still living, working professionals writing about real people (usually but not always themselves) and places. Learn more about, even validate the truth about, the people and places and times these books tell about. You can begin with your author's own website, check out links, then search a little more. Provide about three pages of what you select as interesting and relevant information presented in whatever style you choose: an electronic format, a news update, a poster, a "behind the scenes" special report.

One final suggestion: These ten nonfiction selections are relatively short, fairly current, and, if the reviews of professional critics and previous students are to be believed, rather interesting and revelatory. Why not read more than one? Why not share the books with others who are taking the class? In his autobiography Anonymously Yours, author Richard Peck writes, "I read because one life isn't enough." One of the best ways to expand your experiences is to read.