

AP Language and Composition – Summer Reading Assignment 2010-2011

NOTE from Ms. Salatto: The school will be doing a summer reading assignment similar to last year, when AP students had to do what was required for their AP English class, but also had to sign up for a book that a teacher was reading *in addition* to what was required for AP. This year you will be able to count *The Art of War* (on the back of this page) as your “read what a teacher is reading” book, so you will NOT have to read anything “extra.” I will be leading one section of *The Art of War* discussion. (But just to stress the importance of reading, I will be reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* from the list below.)

- I. Read one non-fiction selection written during the first ten years of this new century from the list below.** Take notes on important details from the book. Type one passage of 50-100 words length from the book that you think is representative of the writer’s style, or that you thought was particularly interesting or well-written. Bring this passage and your notes with you on the first day of class. During the first week of school, you will need to be prepared to speak knowledgably about this book.

The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich
Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand
The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers
Life is So Good by George Lawson
The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama
The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
Big Russ and Me by Tim Russert
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
The Innocent Man by John Grisham
Lucky Man: A Memoir by Michael J. Fox
Portrait of a Killer – Jack the Ripper: Case Closed by Patricia Cornwell
Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley with Ron Powers
The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion
Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq’s Green Zone by Rajiv Chandrasekaran
The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser
Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris
Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood by Mark Harris
Triangle: The Fire that Changed America by David von Drehle
The World Without Us by Alan Weisman
Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer
A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
Chronicles: Volume One by Bob Dylan
Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books by Azar Nafisi
Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time
By Greg Mortenson
Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach
On Writing by Stephen King

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales by Oliver W.

Sacks

Columbine by Dave Cullen

Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six MIT Students Who Took Vegas for Millions by Ben Mezrich

Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen by Julie Powell

My Life in France by Julia Child

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis

(Yes, I know there are film versions of some of these books, but the AP student knows the *value of actually reading* and should also expect that his/her teacher will be *very* interested in having the student answer *very* specific questions about the BOOK and not the movie. Be advised; when you are in AP, you will need to READ.)

II. **Read all of *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu**, a text written in the 6th century B.C. that is still used for both military and non-military purposes. Many coaches and entrepreneurs consider the book an invaluable strategic tool. You may buy the book or can you read it **on-line**. (Google “The Art of War” + SunTzu and a variety of hypertexts will come up. Be sure the site is reputable – perhaps the URL ends in edu. I liked the version under [Internet Classics Archive](#).) Jot down key points. Be ready to discuss how war is like life in many ways. Which strategies for war also lead to success in life? *You need to be very familiar with this text.*

III. **Write an essay in response to the following prompt from a former AP exam. The essay should be two pages in length. Type your essay, double-spaced. This is due on the first day of class.**

Prompt: In many national elections, only a fraction of eligible voters actually cast ballots. For local elections, the turnout is even smaller. To prevent this state of affairs, some countries, such as Australia, make voting compulsory for all adults. In a well-written essay that draws upon your reading, experience, and observations, take and support a position on the issue of compulsory voting.

See me in A206 if you need a book recommendation/description. To review, read one book from the non-fiction list, read *The Art of War* on-line (and be prepared for your teacher-led book discussion group), write a 2-page essay. I look forward to meeting all of you. Let the challenge begin!

(Mrs. Laura Salatto)