

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
Mrs. Martinez and Mr. Toma

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! One of the requirements for this class is that you will complete a summer reading assignment in preparation for the learning we will engage in next school year.

This summer you will read *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. A limited number of copies are available for check-out in the main office. Copies of the novel are also available at your local library, on Kindle (or similar devices), and at bookstores.

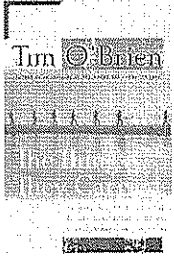
You will also read a nonfiction book of your choice. A list of suggested titles and the assignment you must complete are also included in this packet. You may choose a book that is not on the list as long as it has literary merit.

YOUR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

We look forward to reading, writing, and learning with you in the 2017-2018 school year!

Feel free to contact Mrs. Martinez or Mr. Toma if you have any questions.

“A thing may happen and be a total lie; another thing may not happen and be truer than the truth.”
— Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*



The Things They Carried is a collection of connected stories detailing a platoon of soldiers' experiences during and after the Vietnam War. The author, who is a Vietnam veteran, explores the effect the war has on the soldiers as well as the importance of storytelling as a way to heal. While reading, you will keep a dialectical journal with a minimum of 10 entries where you record a passage from the text that you have selected and provide your analysis of the passage. The passages you choose must come from the beginning middle and end of the book and should be cited using proper MLA format.

What is a Dialectical Journal?

A Dialectical Journal is a journal in which a reader maintains a written conversation with the text. You should use this journal to:

- Summarize and question the text
- Pose questions about what you have read
- Take notes on details, images, diction, etc.
- Notice patterns
- Write analysis and make connections
- Connect method to purpose, effect, and meaning
- Make choices about evidence
- Document quotes
- Make inferences about characters, symbols, etc.
- Write analysis justifying an assertion

Procedure

As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart. Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you've seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn't seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage).

Sample Dialectical Journal entry: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Passage from the text	Analysis
<p>“Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit ‘em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird...I asked Miss Maudie about it...she said ‘Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy...they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird” (Lee 119).</p>	<p>For one of the first times in the novel, the title phrase actually occurs. It’s important to know, now, that readers can see that the title refers to innocence, or its destruction. A reader could guess at this point that this innocence might be that of the children, or perhaps the mysterious Boo Radley. So, a clear symbol is established here...mockingbird= innocence...death of mockingbird= death of innocence.</p> <p>Also, from a purely plot level, this is ironic because this comes up in a chapter where Atticus is criticized for “not doing anything” then immediately demonstrates his great shooting skills.</p>

ASSIGNMENT: SOAPSTone

Originally conceived as a method for dissecting the work of professional writers, SOAPSTone provides a concrete strategy to help students identify and understand the main components of writing, including their own. SOAPSTone (speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, subject, tone) is an acronym for a series of questions that students must first ask themselves, and then answer, as they begin to analyze texts and plan for their own writing assignments.

Choose a work of nonfiction from the attached list to read over the summer. As you read, take notes about the speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, subject and tone of the work. Use your notes to compose a six-paragraph typed essay that addresses each of the components of the SOAPSTone strategy, in order. Each paragraph should be backed up by quote support from the text. Essays will be due on the first day of school and worth 50 points. Below are some helpful hints to get you started.

Who is the Speaker?

The voice or voices that tell the story. Whether this voice belongs to a fictional character or to the writers themselves, students should determine how a writer develops the personality, character and credibility of the speaker or narrator that will influence the overall meaning of the text. Think about the assumptions you can make about the speaker (age, gender, emotional state, etc.) and the speaker's point of view.

What is the Occasion?

The context and circumstances of the piece that prompted the writing. Writing does not occur in a vacuum. All writers are influenced by the larger occasion, an environment of ideas, attitudes and emotions that swirl around a broad issue. Then there is the immediate occasion, an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response. Think about the rhetorical purpose of the text (to relate a memory, a description, an observation, an argument, a critique, etc.) Also, think about the setting. What is the intended emotional effect? What else was going on in the world when the author was writing?

Who is the Audience?

The group of readers to whom a text is directed. Successful writers must determine who the audience is that they intend to address. It may be one person or a specific group. This choice of audience will affect how and why writers write a particular text. Think about who the author wants to be affected by the text.

What is the Purpose?

The reason behind the text. Writers need to clearly consider the purpose of their text in order to develop the thesis or the argument and its logic. Writers should ask themselves, "What do I want my audience to think or do as a result of reading my text?" What is the writer's overall message and how is it conveyed?

What is the Subject?

Students should be able to state the subject in a few words or phrases. This step helps them to focus on the intended task throughout the writing process. Subjects, or topics, are then developed into full ideas, arguments or themes.

What is the Tone?

The attitude of the author toward his or her subject. The spoken word can convey the speaker's attitude and thus help to impart meaning through tone of voice. With the written word, tone is created by conscious choices in diction, syntax, figurative language, imagery, and selection of details to extend meaning beyond the literal. The ability to manage tone is one of the best indicators of a sophisticated writer. Think about diction; is the writing tight and economical or elaborate and long-winded? Does the writer use proper and formal language? Also think about tone; what is the speaker's attitude toward the subject and audience? Does the speaker seem sarcastic, aggressive, wistful, pessimistic, hopeful, bitter, reflective, skeptical, etc.?

AP Language and Composition
SOAPSTone

Title _____	
Speaker	
Occasion	
Audience	
Purpose	
Subject	
Tone	

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading List
Nonfiction: Memoirs

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (2005)

This book recounts Walls' and her siblings' unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents. After spending 261 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List, being translated into 22 languages, and selling 2.5 million copies worldwide, the book is currently being adapted into a movie starring Jennifer Lawrence.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah (2007)

At the age of 12, Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By 13, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. At 16, he was removed from fighting by UNICEF, and through the help of the staff at a rehab center, he learned how to forgive himself, to regain his humanity, and, finally, to heal.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos (2002)

In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring young writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he agreed to help crew a boat loaded with drugs from the Virgin Islands to New York City, setting sail on an ill-fated expedition that eventually landed him in federal prison. Gantos finds himself stuck behind bars armed with nothing but his dreams of college and a desire to write.

Breaking Night by Liz Murray (2010)

Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls' home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless, won a *New York Times* scholarship, and made it into Harvard University.

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride (1995)

The chapters alternate between James McBride's descriptions of his early life and first-person accounts of his mother Ruth's life, mostly taking place before her son was born. McBride depicts the conflicting emotions that he endured as he struggled to discover who he truly was, as his mother narrates the hardships that she had to overcome as a white, Jewish woman who chose to marry a black man in 1942.

Wave by Sonali Deraniyagala (2013)

Most of the time, the beach is a place of peace, but every now and then, it can be the site of a living nightmare. In 2004, a devastating tsunami hit the coast of Sri Lanka, where economics professor Deraniyagala was vacationing with her husband, parents and two young sons. She was the only member of her family to survive the wave. She is able to describe in precise, acute detail the chaos of losing loved ones, from the aching hurt to the moments of beauty following an unthinkable tragedy. Hers is a timeless tale confronting real questions: How can one carry on when everything you love is suddenly, completely washed away?

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading List
General Nonfiction

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain (2012)

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society - from van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer.

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants by Malcolm Gladwell (2013)

In his #1 bestselling books *The Tipping Point*, *Blink* and *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell has explored the ways in which we understand and change our world. Now he looks at the complex and surprising ways in which the weak can defeat the strong, how the small can match up against the giant, and how our goals (often culturally determined) can make a huge difference in our ultimate sense of success. Drawing upon examples from the world of business, sports, culture, cutting-edge psychology and an array of unforgettable characters around the world, *David and Goliath* is in many ways the most practical and provocative book Malcolm Gladwell has ever written.

Columbine by Dave Cullen (2009)

Ten years in the making and a masterpiece of reportage, "Columbine" is an award-winning journalist's definitive account of one of the most shocking massacres in American history. It is driven by two questions: what drove these killers, and what did they do to this town?

The Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age by Kevin Boyle (2005)

In 1925, Detroit was a smoky swirl of jazz and speakeasies, assembly lines and fistfights. The advent of automobiles had brought workers from around the globe to compete for manufacturing jobs, and tensions often flared with the KKK in ascendance and violence rising. Ossian Sweet, a proud Negro doctor-grandson of a slave-had made the long climb from the ghetto to a home of his own in a previously all-white neighborhood. Yet just after his arrival, a mob gathered outside his house; suddenly, shots rang out: Sweet, or one of his defenders, had accidentally killed one of the whites threatening their lives and homes. And so it began-a chain of events that brought America's greatest attorney, Clarence Darrow, into the fray and transformed Sweet into a controversial symbol of equality.

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand (2010)

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. In her long-awaited new book, Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.