

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:

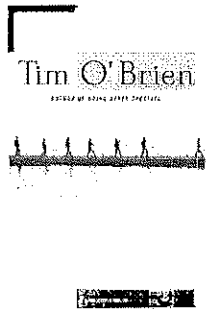
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien. You will be responsible for obtaining a copy of the book. It is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, the public library, and there is even a PDF version available for free online. There is information included in this packet detailing your assignment for this book.

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.

We look forward to reading, writing, and learning with you in the 2018-2019 school year!

Feel free to contact Mrs. Martinez or Mr. Toma if you 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 94).</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-- 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>

A dialectical journal looks like this:

PASSAGE FROM THE TEXT (include chapter and page number)	MY ANALYSIS

**AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading List: 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.

***Signs of Life: A Memoir* by Natalie Taylor**

Twenty-four-year-old Natalie Taylor was leading a charmed life. She had a fulfilling job as a high school English teacher, a wonderful husband, a new house and a baby on the way. Then, while visiting her sister, she gets the news that Josh has died in a freak accident. Four months before the birth of her son, Natalie is leveled by loss. What follows is an incredibly powerful emotional journey, as Natalie calls upon resources she didn't even know she had in order to re-imagine and re-build a life for her and her son.

***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?

***Her* by Christa Parravani (2013)**

Warning: *Her* may make you cry in a public place. Be prepared. Christa Parravani's memoir is that rare kind of book that hits you out of nowhere, and suddenly it's overwhelming you with cinematic swell. Parravani is an identical twin — or, rather, she *was* an identical twin. Her sister, Cara, was her best friend, her confidante, her entire world. And then, Cara becomes the victim of a terrible act of violence, falls into a spiral of drugs and depression, and ultimately passes away young, without leaving answers. It's not often to find so much pleasure in the act of watching someone heal herself, but that's exactly what *Her* provides.

***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed (2012)**

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, *Wild* powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her. In June 2012, Oprah Winfrey announced that *Wild* was her first selection for her new Oprah's Book Club 2.0. The actress Reese Witherspoon optioned *Wild* for a film to be released in 2014.

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston (1975)**

In this beautiful, bitter memoir, Kingston blends traditional Chinese folk tales — her mother's "talk-stories" — with her often difficult experiences growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California. What is a ghost? What is a woman's worth? Who is she? Kingston's prose burns on the page as she investigates.

***Lit: A Memoir* by Mary Karr (2009)**

This sequel to *The Liar's Club* and *Cherry* is also a master class on the art of the memoir. Mordantly funny, free of both self-pity and sentimentality, Karr describes her attempts to untether herself from her troubled family in rural Texas, her development as a poet and writer, and her struggles to navigate marriage and young motherhood even as she descends into alcoholism.

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading List: Nonfiction

And Still We Rise: The Trials and Tribulations of Twelve Gifted Inner-City Students by Miles Corwin (2000)

Bestselling author of *The Killing Season* and veteran *Los Angeles Times* reporter Miles Corwin spent a school year with twelve high school seniors -- South-Central kids who qualified for a gifted program because of their exceptional IQs and test scores. Sitting alongside them in classrooms where bullets were known to rip through windows, Corwin chronicled their amazing odyssey as they faced the greatest challenges of their academic lives. *And Still We Rise* is an unforgettable story of transcending obstacles that would dash the hopes of any but the most exceptional spirits.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond (2016)

In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. Arleen is a single mother trying to raise her two sons on the \$20 a month she has left after paying for their rundown apartment. Scott is a gentle nurse consumed by a heroin addiction. Lamar, a man with no legs and a neighborhood full of boys to look after, tries to work his way out of debt. Vanetta participates in a botched stickup after her hours are cut. All are spending almost everything they have on rent, and all have fallen behind.

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.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich (2001)

Barbara Ehrenreich's non-fiction bestseller, *Nickel and Dimed*, is the story of an essay writer who went undercover as a low wage worker to find out how non-skilled workers make ends meet. The experiment took place in Florida, Maine, and Minnesota, with the author finding a job and lodgings in each location. The experiment was to be held for one month in each location, working full time and living only off the amount of money earned in low-wage jobs. The goal was to determine whether or not the author could both live off the money earned and have enough money at the end of the month to pay the next month's rent.

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?

***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.

***Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman* by Jon Krakauer (2009)**

Like the men whose epic stories Jon Krakauer has told in his previous bestsellers, Pat Tillman was an irrepressible individualist and iconoclast. In May 2002, Tillman walked away from his \$3.6 million NFL contract to enlist in the United States Army. He was deeply troubled by 9/11, and he felt a strong moral obligation to join the fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Two years later, he died on a desolate hillside in southeastern Afghanistan. Though obvious to most of the two dozen soldiers on the scene that a ranger in Tillman's own platoon had fired the fatal shots, the Army aggressively maneuvered to keep this information from Tillman's wife, other family members, and the American public for five weeks following his death. In *Where Men Win Glory*, Jon Krakauer draws on Tillman's journals and letters, interviews with his wife and friends, conversations with the soldiers who served alongside him, and extensive research on the ground in Afghanistan to render an intricate mosaic of this driven, complex, and uncommonly compelling figure as well as the definitive account of the events and actions that led to his death.

***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser (2001)**

This myth-shattering book tells the story of America and the world's infatuation with fast food, from its origins in 1950s southern California to the global triumph of a handful of burger and fried chicken chains. In a meticulously researched and powerfully argued account, Eric Schlosser visits the labs where scientists re-create the smell and taste of everything - from cooked meat to fresh strawberries; talks to the workers at places with some of the worst safety records in the world; explains exactly where the meat comes from and just why the fries taste so good; and looks at the way the fast food industry is transforming not only our diet but our landscape, economy, workforce and culture. Both funny and terrifying, *Fast Food Nation* will make you think, but more than that, it might make you realize you don't want a quick bite after all.

***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.

*Credit to Good Reads and Wikipedia for help with annotations

SOAPSTone: A Strategy for Reading *and* Writing



by Ogden Morse
Academic Director
Way Interactive, Inc.



For many students, the creation of a piece of writing is a mysterious process. It is a laborious, academic exercise, required by teachers and limited to the classroom. They do not see it as a way of ordering the mind, explaining their thoughts and feelings, or achieving a personal voice.

One of the problems for these students is that they have no conscious plan that will enable them to begin the process and then to organize and develop their ideas. Without a strategy, particularly if they are under time constraints, they simply begin to write, and the quality of their compositions is often erratic.

Students need to recognize that any good composition, whether written, spoken, or drawn, is carefully planned. This composition has integral parts that work together in a complex and subtle arrangement to produce meaning. Originally conceived as a method for dissecting the work of professional writers, SOAPSTone provides a concrete strategy to help students identify and use these central components as a basis for their own writing.

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 plan their compositions.

Who is the Speaker?

The voice that tells the story. Before students begin to write, they must decide whose voice is going to be heard. Whether this voice belongs to a fictional character or to the writers themselves, students should determine how to insert and develop those attributes of the speaker that will influence the perceived meaning of the piece.

What is the Occasion?

The time and the place of the piece; the context 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.

Who is the Audience?

The group of readers to whom this piece is directed. As they begin to write, students 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 students write a particular text.

What is the Purpose?

The reason behind the text. Students need to consider the purpose of the text in order to develop the thesis or the argument and its logic. They should ask themselves, "What do I want my audience to think or do as a result of reading my text?"

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.

What is the Tone?

The attitude of the author. The spoken word can convey the speaker's attitude and thus help to impart meaning through tone of voice. With the written word, it is tone that extends meaning beyond the literal, and students must learn to convey this tone in their diction (choice of words), syntax (sentence construction), and imagery (metaphors, similes, and other types of figurative language). The ability to manage tone is one of the best indicators of a sophisticated writer.

Who is the Speaker?

(Who are you? What details will you reveal? Why is it important that the audience know who you are?)

What is the Occasion?

(How does your knowledge of the larger occasion and the immediate occasion affect what you are writing about?)

Who is the Audience?

(What are the characteristics of this group? How are they related to you? Why are you addressing them?)

What is the Purpose?

(Explain to yourself what you hope to accomplish by this expression of opinion. How would you like your audience to respond?)

What is the Subject?

(What are you talking about? Are there any related subjects? Why is the subject important?)

What is the Tone?

(What attitude[s] do you want your audience to feel? How will your attitude[s] enhance the effectiveness of your piece? Choose a few words or phrases that will reflect a particular attitude.)

Assignment: SOAPSTone

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 linked together with smooth transitions and backed up with quote support from the text. Essays will be due on the first day of school and worth 50 points.

The SOAPSTone strategy may appear to be somewhat formulaic and rigid, but it helps students, especially novice writers, to clarify and organize their thoughts prior to writing. It provides a specific structure for the text. By the time students have finished answering the SOAPSTone questions, they will have an outline of what they think, where they are going with their ideas, and why they are writing.

This strategy is not a substitute for the hard work and practice necessary for students to increase their skill in the use of language or in the development of individual writing styles. But it is an important first step.