

Canterbury High School
Summer Reading 2022-2023: AP English Literature & Composition
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Students taking AP English Language & Composition will read a collection of essays and a choice memoir in preparation for our first unit. Your responses & notes **must be typed and ready to upload to turnitin.com & Canvas on the first day of school.**

1. Common Read: All students in AP Lang will read: *Best American Essays 2021*, Edited by Kathryn Schultz

The Assignment:

- After reading each essay in the collection, write a ****short response*** that includes the following:
 - WHAT is being said in this essay—what is the essential summary or point of the individual essay? What do you think is the author’s purpose in writing this piece?
 - HOW is the author saying it? What writing techniques/tools of craft are they using to get their point across?
 - Audience response—how did this essay affect you as a reader? Good or bad or something else. What specifically about the essay do you think made you have that reaction? Put your responses in MLA format (no WC needed) all in one document—do not write each response on a new document!

****Short response means you should have about 4-5 sentences for each essay that answer the 3 bullet points above—show me that you can write concisely & effectively. Just because you can write a page for each essay doesn’t mean you should or that it is effective! There are 20 essays in this collection so you should end up with 20 very short mini paragraphs on each essay.****

2. Choice Read: During your Junior year you will start to experience a higher level of choice in your writing, research, and even reading—this begins with summer reading! Please choose a memoir from the approved list below. (If you have a memoir you’ve been wanting to read you may **e-mail me before July 1st and I may or may not approve it** to replace a text on this list. It is not guaranteed but you may ask! Additionally, if you turn in summer reading of a memoir & did not get it approved, then your assignment will not be considered complete.) I highly recommend that you read a description of each memoir listed below before choosing one that might interest you.

The Assignment:

- As you read, take notes on these two categories: **content and style**
- For **content**—any time you have a notable emotional (any emotion—good, bad, indifferent, etc.) reaction to the content of the memoir write down the page number and the start of the passage & last few words of the end of the passage. Write a short personal response (think 60-70 words) that discusses WHY you think you had that response.
- For **style**—any time you notice the author employing DIDLS (diction, imagery, details, language, & syntax) or a unique structure overall or anything writing style-related, write down the page number & first few words of the passage & last few words (in this case it may be a short passage or example—sometimes even a single word). Write a short personal response that discusses what you’ve noticed about the style the author is using.

- For each entry of your notes make sure you label it “content” or “style” (at times you may find it is both) so that I know what type of response you are making. You should have a decent balance of both categories and they should span the book from start to finish. I expect you will have a minimum of 2 pages of typed notes. Please use MLA formatting (you don’t need a WC page).

List of Memoirs to Choose From:

Crying in H Mart, Michelle Zauner
Somebody’s Daughter, Ashley C. Ford
What We Carry, Maya Shanbhag Lang
Born A Crime, Trevor Noah
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
Men We Reaped, Jesmyn Ward
Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson
Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer
Calypso, David Sedaris
The Year of Magical Thinking or *Blue Nights*, Joan Didion
Crossing the Line, Kareen Rosser
All You Can Ever Know, Nicole Chung
Educated, Tara Westover
Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi