

Friday, May 20, 2016

Future AP student,

Congratulations on enrolling in AP Language and Composition! The English course you take next year will be among the most rigorous, stimulating, and rewarding classes you will take in high school. The work load for this course will be intense; however, this course will thoroughly prepare you for the work that you will do in college.

All students enrolled in AP Lang & Comp are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Students are expected to read, annotate, and take notes on their reading. Furthermore, the books you will read require deep consideration and ample reflection, so resist the temptation to put off the assignment until just before school starts. Students are responsible for obtaining these books on their own; you can pick up copies from a bookstore, or you can purchase the books from an online retailer like Amazon. Please see the back of this sheet for your specific assignment.

This course will require extensive reading throughout the year as well. AP students will be required to purchase most or all of the books read in class. You are advised to prepare for the potential cost that taking an AP class entails.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Welcome to the AP program; I look forward to working with you next year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Beard

[ebear@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:ebear@highland.k12.in.us)

Ms. Anna Lang

[alang@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:alang@highland.k12.in.us)

## AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

**Your assignment is to read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver and *Drive* by Daniel Pink. You will annotate each book and complete a dialectical journal as you read.**

### Annotations

Annotating means reading with a pen or pencil in hand and marking the text in a helpful, meaningful way. Here are some suggestions:

- Write comments in the margin especially to ask questions, jot down main ideas/events, make connections, etc.
- Star any passages you think are very important
- Underline any sentences that you found appealing or that made you think
- Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar to you
- Bracket areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand

### Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is a written log that you keep representing a conversation that you have with a text. Your DJ should be broken into two columns: 1) Quotes from the Text and 2) Commentary.

Choose meaningful, powerful, or thought-provoking quotations from the text to include in the left column, and be sure to include page numbers. In the right column, write down your reflections on the quoted passages. You should also use this column to make predictions, ask questions, make connections, and analyze the text for literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery, etc.)

You should include at least 15 entries for each book. See to it that your entries are distributed evenly throughout the text (in other words, make sure that you don't just include quotations from the first few chapters of the book). Be sure to include page numbers with your quotes. Look at the example below for help.

Quotes from the Text	Commentary
"...sucking life out of death. The forest eats itself and lives forever" (6).	The forest represents an endless cycle of dying and replenishing itself. The author seems to be showing how this land hasn't been touched by "civilization."

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Beard at [ebear@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:ebear@highland.k12.in.us) or Ms. Lang at [alang@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:alang@highland.k12.in.us).