



AP Literature and Composition

Summer Work – 2021

Mrs. Monday

When utilized well, summer reading should be meaningful, enjoyable, and reasonable. Overloading you with tedious, meaningless tasks in order for you to prove that you deserve a spot in the course just isn't my style. Summer reading should serve to benefit you by helping you retain the skills you will need to succeed next year. Because reading and writing are the most important skills necessary for AP Lit, your summer work will involve both, and my hope is that it will be an enjoyable experience for you as well. This summer, you should complete the following:

Part 1 - Summer Reading:

In order to help you bridge the gap between the nonfiction of AP Language and the fiction of AP Literature, you will read Truman Capote's true crime classic *In Cold Blood*. *In Cold Blood* is one of the first works of "literary non-fiction" – a true story told in a more artistic way than straight journalistic writing. We will discuss the book during the first week of class and use it as a springboard to begin our work with literary analysis. You are responsible for obtaining your own copy of the book from a store or library, but I will also put a link to the full text (available online) at the padlet linked below.

Description: (from Random House): Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, created a sensation when it was first published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the "new journalism." Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. "I thought he was a very nice gentleman," he says of Herb Clutter. "Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat." Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers' flight, Capote's account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events.

In Cold Blood is an excellent story; however, it is not for the faint of heart. If you object to reading it, *Crime and Punishment* may be read as a substitute text. Better yet – feel free to read both!

*Helpful hint: Sparknotes, Cliffs Notes, etc., may be good for aiding in your understanding of the text, but they are no substitute for actual reading.

Part 2 – Summer Writing

Having a broad range of experiences upon which one can draw is important to understanding the resonance of many of the works we read. In preparation, I would like for you to broaden your experiences this summer. As part of your summer activities, keep a journal.

The following items should be in your journal when you turn it in on the first day of class:

- Entries for at least three days a week, beginning with the week of May 31st (3 entries a week for 10 weeks = 30 entries total). Write about the experiences you have, the things you are reading both for summer reading and in addition to it, your thoughts on important philosophical ideas, current events, and life in general, etc.
- You must also choose at least **five** activities from the list below to complete. Document your experience in your journal by writing a reflection of not less than one page for each activity. You may include pictures or drawings. Each journal entry about the five activities you select should include an **item number** and the **date you completed the activity**. These can count as part of the thirty entries.

Activity List:

1. Attend a summer festival. Try DollyFest, Knoxville Pridfest, the Oak Ridge Lavender Festival, Maryville's Big BBQ Bash, the Granger County Tomato Festival, or any others you can find.
2. Go to a museum or historic attraction. Try the Knoxville Museum of Art, East Tennessee History Center, Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Oak Ridge's Museum of Science and Energy, James White's Fort, Blount Mansion, Museum of Appalachia etc., if you've never been.
3. Spend a day without electronics (no TV, cell phone, iPods, etc.) **I would love for everyone to try this.** You CAN survive without electronics.
4. Spend a day with animals. Go to the zoo or visit the Humane Society or Young-Williams animal shelter.
5. Hike at least five miles in the Smoky Mountains. Or, if that's too far, try a local hike like House Mountain.
6. Do some gardening.
7. Talk to a grandparent older adult (50+) about life in their younger years. Count this as two entries if you record it on Storycorps (<https://storycorps.org/>).
8. Go tent camping.
9. See a classic movie at the Tennessee Theatre. Their Summer Movie Magic series includes classic films on Fridays and Sundays all summer long.
10. Go fishing or horseback riding.
11. Eat a meal from a foreign culture (something you haven't tried previously).
12. Spend an evening playing cards or board games with your family or friends.
13. Volunteer at a shelter or a food pantry.
14. Attend the Juneteenth Memorial March & Parade in downtown Knoxville.

15. Visit with patients at a nursing home.
16. Prepare a meal for your family and enjoy it with them.
17. Pick berries and make a cobbler or pie.
18. Visit a quiet spot on a beach, by a lake, or beside a stream. Spend an hour in thought.
19. Attend a service of a different religion or interview someone who is of a different religion.
20. Repair or build something, or do some kind of maintenance (changing oil, rotating tires).
21. Do something you don't normally do (the point of this is to try new things in order to experience the world through a different lens).

But why journal?

Some of you are probably wondering – “Why do I have to do this?” Answer: Writing is born out of experience. A large part of this class is about helping you find your voice. Finding your voice takes time. Writing throughout the summer will give you time to begin to figure out your voice. Be yourself when you write. Don't try to be too serious or academic. Be funny. Be sarcastic. Be vulnerable. Be real.

What is a journal?

A journal is what you make of it -- the more you put into it, the more benefit you will see. It is your journal and, as long as you are serious about it (and yourself), you will receive full credit for it. Hopefully your journal will be much more (and a little less) than a diary. I am not interested in your daily routine or what you had for lunch. If, on the other hand, you wish to record your dreams last night or a rough draft of a poem or an interesting quote from a friend, please utilize your journal.

I hope that you will consider buying a bound journal that you really like -- something costing between \$5 and \$20. A cheap spiral notebook is often another way of saying, "My thoughts aren't really valuable." If you wish, you might even try constructing your own journal, but you should remember that what you put in the interior of your journal is most important.

Will Mrs. Monday read my journal?

I will only read with your permission. I will, of course, want to read a page or so about each of your summer activities and readings, but you are free to designate specific entries or sections of your journal as personal.


Writing more in your journal will benefit YOU. Of course, your grade will benefit, but more importantly, writing improves your skill at writing. Remember to write at least three days per week. Waiting until the end of the summer and then trying to go back and “recapture” the days you missed may fill up the pages and give you a certain number of entries. It does not fulfill the intent of the assignment, however, nor does it provide you with the kind of writing practice that will be beneficial to you during the school year. Additionally, academic integrity is important. As you approach the end of your high school experience, think about what is right and ethical. Therefore, keep up with your work rather than trying to recreate it in a hurried manner at the end of the summer. Will I know if you wait and then write all at one time? Maybe I will, and maybe I will not. You, however, will know, and that is what is most important.

Padlet

Be sure to visit our class resource Padlet (QR code and link below) for extra information that will be useful for your reading. I will try to include links to info about journal activities there as well.



https://padlet.com/rachel_monday/cz7swxmt6gsjb098

Contact Info: If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to  email me at rachel.monday@knoxschools.org and I will be happy to answer any questions. Please allow at least 24 hours for me to respond. Have a great summer, and I look forward to meeting you on the first day of your SENIOR year!