

AP English III Summer Reading Assignment

1. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansbury

Read both books. As you read, keep a reading journal in which you take notes specifically on characters: what they do and say that tell you something about that character's personality, setting, theme, tone, author's purpose, and plot. Pay close attention to each character's motivation for doing what they do. As you are reading the second novel, make any comparisons you notice to the other book. You will take a test on both books and write an analytical essay during the first week of school. You will depend heavily on your journal as source material for this essay, so be sure to write down specific quotes from the text that are pertinent to your understanding. In addition to an essay assignment during the first week of school, you will also take an objective or a short answer test on both books. **Please hand-write your notes—do not type them.**

2. In addition to the above assignment you will read and take notes on *On Writing* by Stephen King

3. Newspaper / magazine editorial reading assignment

This assignment gives you practice in reading and responding to essays and arguments.

Use a 70-page spiral-bound notebook to keep this assignment in. **You will be submitting this journal in the first week of school and continuing to work in it throughout the year.**

Over the summer, **read, clip and paste into your journal at least four editorials or commentaries / essays** (not news articles or informational features) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines (you should mix-and-match, using at least two-three different sources).

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

The New York Times

The Washington Post

The Tennessean

Time

Newsweek

The New Republic

National Review

The New Yorker

Atlantic Monthly

Harper's

Mother Jones

Vanity Fair

Salon.com (online ideas magazine)

Slate.com (online ideas magazine))

Arts and Letters Daily (an online compilation of items from around the English-speaking world)

Examples of newspapers/magazines that are not recommended:

USA Today (newspaper)

fashion, lifestyle, or popular culture/entertainment magazines

Then, in your journal, comment on the aspects of each of the editorials that made you think, and your thoughts about the editorial or the issues – one response per editorial. Your responses should be thoughtful and detailed.

Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:

- Do you agree or disagree with the editorial's viewpoints? Why?
- Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
- What are some of the author's best arguments? What makes them good?
- Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
- How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
- Anything else this editorial makes you think about...

4. *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White

You do not have to read this book over the summer. You do need to acquire your own copy of this small, paperback guide for writing that you will use throughout the year. You do not have to get the latest edition which is the fourth; the third edition will suffice.

For all of the assigned books, please search the used book internet sites such as Amazon.com, AbeBooks.com, half.com, etc. McKay's Used Book Store on Charlotte Pike, just past White Bridge Road, is a good source of used books here in Nashville; there may be many more.