



Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading
AP Language and Composition
 Summer 2018

Instructions: Juniors enrolled in AP Language & Composition are required to read the highlighted titles. You may read another book from this list and submit typed reading notes to www.turnitin.com for extra credit. Please see additional AP Assignment instructions on the Hingham High School website.

Essential Questions:

1. What does a work of literature or non-fiction say about the American Character in terms of the following ideas: the desire for freedom? the search for identity? the individual and the community? the pressure to conform? the citizen to the state?
2. What is the rhetorical relationship between speaker, audience, and subject?

Selections		
Author	Title	Synopsis
Anzaldua	<i>Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza</i>	Rooted in Gloria Anzaldúa's experience as a Chicana, a lesbian, an activist, and a writer, the essays and poems in this volume profoundly challenge how we think about identity. <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i> remaps our understanding of what a "border" is, presenting it as a psychic, social, and cultural terrain that we inhabit, and that inhabits all of us. Amazon.com Review
Bryson	<i>The Mother Tongue</i> Required for all students registered for AP Language & Composition	With dazzling wit and astonishing insight, Bill Bryson explores the history, eccentricities, resilience and sheer fun of the English language. From the first descent of the larynx into the throat (why you can talk but your dog can't), to the fine lost art of swearing, Bryson tells the fascinating, story of an inadequate, second-rate tongue of peasants that developed into one of the world's largest growth industries. Amazon.com Review
Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>	Published in 1918 and set in Nebraska in the late 19th century, <i>My Antonia</i> is the tale of the spirited daughter of a Bohemian immigrant family planning to farm on the untamed land. Antonia represents immigrant struggles with a foreign land and tongue, the restraints on women of the time, general human desires, and the American frontier spirit. Amazon.com Review
Ellis	<i>The First Family</i>	Ellis notes that any study of either John or Abigail is necessarily about them both, and in <i>The First Family</i> his focus is on that partnership. The letters John and Abigail exchanged are the chief documents. The book examines the strengths of the Adams' marriage as well as the toll taken by their years apart. From Booklist
Goodwin	<i>Wait Till Next Year</i>	In this memoir historian Doris Kearns Goodwin recounts some wonderful stories about both her family and an era when baseball truly was the national pastime that brought whole communities together. The main narrative centers around the sport, but between games and seasons, Goodwin also relates the impact of pivotal historical events. From Library Journal
Gladwell	<i>Outliers: The Story of Success</i>	Gladwell explores the world of "outliers" the best, brightest, most famous and most successful. He asks: what makes high-achievers different? His answer: we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the experiences of their upbringing. Library Journal
Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> Required for all students registered for AP Language & Composition	First published in 1850, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> is Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterpiece and one of the greatest American novels. Its themes of sin, guilt, and redemption, woven through a story of adultery in the early days of the Massachusetts Colony, are revealed with remarkable psychological penetration and understanding of the human heart. Amazon.com

	Composition	
James	<i>Black Ice: The Val James Story</i>	Val James became the first African American player in the NHL when he signed with the Buffalo Sabres in 1982 and the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1987. <i>Black Ice</i> is the story of a trail-blazing athlete who endured and overcame discrimination to realize his dreams and become an inspiration for future generations. Amazon.com Review
Kerouac	<i>On The Road</i>	With <i>On the Road</i> , Kerouac discovered his voice and his true subject—the search for a place as an outsider in America. <i>On the Road</i> swings to the rhythms of fifties underground America, jazz, sex, generosity, chill dawns, and drugs, with Sal Paradise and his hero Dean Moriarty, traveler and mystic, the living epitome of Beat. Amazon.com Review
Kidder	<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains</i>	In some readers, this book about infectious disease specialist Paul Farmer may sow the seeds of humanitarian activism. Farmer's goal is nothing less than redressing the "steep gradient of inequality" in medical service to the desperately poor. His work establishing a complex of public health facilities on the central plateau of Haiti forms the keystone to efforts that now encompass initiatives on three continents. From School Library Journal
McCullough	<i>1776</i>	Esteemed historian David McCullough covers the military side of the momentous year of 1776 with characteristic insight and a gripping narrative. McCullough writes vividly about the dismal conditions that troops on both sides had to endure and also explores the importance of motivation and troop morale. <i>1776</i> is the work of a master historian. Amazon.com Review
Momaday	<i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>	Mr. Momaday retells the Kiowa myths that he learned from his grandmother, speculates on the actual history they may symbolize, and describes, with nostalgia, the Indian life he knew as a child. Atlantic Monthly Review on Amazon.com
Pynchon	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>	Quite unexpectedly, Mrs. Oedipa Maas finds herself the executor of the estate of Pierce Inverarity, a man she used to know in a more-or-less intimate fashion. When Oedipa heads off to Southern California to sort through Pierce's affairs, she becomes ensnared in a hilarious worldwide conspiracy. From The New Yorker
Ripley	<i>The Smartest Kids In The World and How They Got That Way</i>	This well-considered, fact-based book by Ripley examines the factors contributing to the United States' poor global educational performance. A great deal is conveyed about the American educational system by comparing it to that of other countries, particularly South Korea, Finland, and Poland. From Library Journal
Stowe	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	Though "Uncle Tom" has become a synonym for a fawning black yes-man, Stowe's Tom is actually American literature's first black hero, a man who suffers for refusing to obey his white oppressors. <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> is a living, relevant story, passionate in its vivid depiction of the cruelest forms of injustice and inhumanity—and the courage it takes to fight against them. Amanda Claybaugh (Columbia University) on Barnes and Noble.com
Tan	<i>Saving Fish From Drowning</i>	Drawing from the current political reality in Burma, Amy Tan's novel poses questions about how we can discern what is real from what is fiction and how we can know what to believe. She explores the mind and the heart of the individual – actions we choose, moral questions we ask, and the deeply personal answers we seek when happy endings are seemingly impossible. Amazon.com Review
Vowell	<i>The Wordy Shipmates</i> Required for all students registered for AP Language & Composition	To this day, America views itself as a Puritan nation, but Sarah Vowell investigates what that means-and what it should mean. What she discovers is something far different from what their uptight shoebuckles-and-corn reputation might suggest - a highly literate, deeply principled, and surprisingly feisty people, whose story is filled with pamphlet feuds, witty courtroom dramas, and bloody vengeance. Amazon.com Review

