

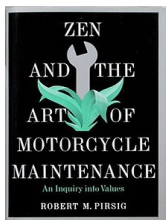
Kirtland High School
AP Language & Composition
 The BIG Summer Read 2019 #APLangBSR

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! I look forward to working with you in the fall. Summer reading is intended to be high interest and thought-provoking. The first 4 weeks of school will be devoted to the study and discussion of your summer reading assignments. Should you procrastinate or wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and taking notes, you will have a difficult first few weeks. In order to have a productive start to your school year, you must complete these readings to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and critical attention. Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

<p><i>Why read during the summer?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other. ● Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences. ● The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically. ● Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop. ● Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power.
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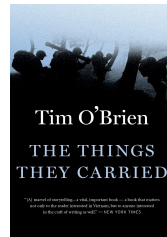
This summer you will **read 2 novels & 1 nonfiction choice.**

2 Novels: We will study both novels during first quarter. Your careful reading this summer will strengthen your performance and help you manage the demands of this college-level course in the fall as we apply rhetorical analysis skills to these works.



***Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig**
 A father-son summer motorcycle trip across the Northwest. This philosophical journey seeks to answer life's most important questions. This challenging and

transcendent novel will be our first unit of the school year. Reading this book before school year begins will help the journey go more smoothly.



***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**

"With *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien adds his second title to the short list of essential fiction about Vietnam. . . . [H]e captures the war's pulsating rhythms and nerve-racking dangers. But he goes much further. By moving beyond the

horror of the fighting to examine with sensitivity and insight the nature of courage and fear, by questioning the role that imagination plays in helping to form our memories and our own versions of truth, he places *The Things They Carried* high up on the list of best fiction about any war." --*New York Times Book Review*



NONFICTION CHOICE: CHOOSE ONE!



NONFICTION CHOICE:

***Something Like the Gods: A Cultural History of the Athlete from Achilles to LeBron* by Stephen Amidon**

A cogent, well-written argument that seeks to explain the prominence of the athlete in our collective imaginations, this book will change the way you look at athletes. Very readable and very entertaining.

***Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond**

This book chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. In it, the author convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world.

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers** - The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.

***Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan**

An exciting, compelling, and beautiful work of autobiography. Proof of the animating force of passion in writing and proof of the sublime power of the ocean, time, and memory. 2016 Pulitzer Prize winner, too.

***My Green Manifesto: Down the Charles River in Search of a New Environmentalism* by David Gesner**

This book weaves an impassioned argument for a new kind of environmental movement that focuses on local, passionate involvement with a very well-written personal narrative about the author's trip down the Charles River. A perfect example of using personal experience to bolster an argument, this book will help you understand the use of this mode of exposition in your own writing -- a vital skill for all good writing.

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston**

A lyrical, experimental, moving, and thought-provoking memoir about Chinese-American woman and her identity, personal history, and views of America and her ancestry. A challenging and rewarding read. Very, very well-written.

***Savage Inequalities* by Jonathan Kozol**

A searing exposé of the extremes of wealth and poverty in America's public school system and the blighting effect the system has on poor children. This will get you ready for one of our first units in Lang – the aims of education.

***The Control of Nature* by John McPhee**

This is a bestselling account of places in the world where people have been engaged in all-out battles with nature, such as in Louisiana against the Mississippi River and in Iceland against a lava flow.

***Brown: The Last Discovery of America* by Richard Rodriguez**

Using the color brown as a metaphor throughout, Rodriguez's book seeks to deconstruct, re-arrange, and reconsider our notions about race.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

This imaginative and informative work traces the history and development of HeLa cells -- human cells that can survive in a laboratory. A lively mix of medical history, family history, and investigative journalism.

Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be digested. That is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man. -- Francis Bacon

Please use #APLangBSR to participate in optional Twitter chats this summer!

Please Sign-up for Remind by texting the message @hkd7ef to 81010.

Earn BONUS PTS: 1) Sign up for Remind by 6/4/19

2) Text/tweet a selfie with summer book choice using #APLangBSR by 7/15/19

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at meriah.duncan@kirtlandschools.org