

# ENGLISH 11 AP SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

## 2009–2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome future 11 AP students!

Before outlining the requirements for the summer reading assignment, it is necessary to give an overview of the course so that students are fully aware of the expectations.

The class focuses on rhetoric through critical reading, analyzing, and writing. Students will learn the necessary skills for analyzing voice, synthesizing information, developing arguments, and critically thinking to a degree that transcends previous English courses. Homework is very frequent, and expectations are in adherence with the College Board; henceforth, bring a diligent work ethic and be prepared to be challenged in new ways.

### Summer Reading

The novel choices for the summer reading assignment reflect unique writing styles that open themselves up to deep analysis in a myriad of areas. Based on the choices, choose one novel, complete an electronic dialectical journal (see requirements at the bottom of the page), and submit a tangible copy on the first attendance day of school. You will submit your journal into [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) after the first day of class.

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *Object Lessons* by Anna Quindlen
- *The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor
- *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

There will be an assessment for your respective text, beyond the dialectical journal, within the first few days of class.

Your journal will be graded on how frequently you document from the text, and the level of insight within each entry. If there are any signs of plagiarism, you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment.

Contact John Miller or Amy Brown at [jmiller@learningcommunity202.org](mailto:jmiller@learningcommunity202.org) or [abrown@learningcommunity202.org](mailto:abrown@learningcommunity202.org) with any questions or concerns regarding the summer reading assignment.

### Electronic Dialectical Journal

The guidelines for the dialectical journal are on the next page. However, all dialectical journals need to be typed in the required format.

## THE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL - MODIFIED VERSION

There is one rigid rule for the format of this type of journaling that you must follow - Take all of your reading notes on ONLY the right hand pages. Leave the opposing pages blank for later. A good rule of thumb is one page of journaling for every 10-15 pages of text.

- The RIGHT hand of the page is for comments on the reading.
- The LEFT hand of the page is for comments on the right hand page.

### OK - So, what do I write on the right hand pages?

Many different ideas can be expressed in your reading commentaries. Here are suggestions for you to follow. **Make certain you are specific in your observations and note the page numbers.**

1. Write at the times when the reading changes . . .
  - you see something you didn't see before.
  - you recognize a pattern - overlapping images, repetitions of idea, details, colors that make a connection . . .
  - you discover that the story is about something different from what you originally thought it was about.
2. Write about something that puzzled you or confused you.
3. Include details that seem important to you.
4. Make connections to your life or the lives of others.
5. Focus on the author's use of style - Is there use of flashback?  
Is the dialogue authentic? Are there shifts in point of view or narration?

### OK - So, what do I write on the left side of the pages?

1. Before you resume reading, review some of what you have written on the right-hand pages. Take a moment to reflect on this writing.
2. Was there something that you misread before but now understand?
3. As a reader ---
  - What did I find I focused on the most?
  - What did I find I cared about the most?
  - Have I found myself sympathetic to the characters? Why or why not?
  - What has this author done to provoke anger, confusion, or greater understanding in me?
  - Am I learning something new and different from this author that I could use to improve my writing?

These are suggestions for you as a reader, writer, and thinker . . . . If there are any connections not included here that you find important, note them on the right side of the page and comment on these connections on the left side of the page. Remember, this is YOUR journal!

You will be called upon to make use of your journal to write a short analytical paper of two to three pages in length when you begin the AP Junior Honors English course in the fall. The more analysis you have at hand in your journal, the better analytical paper you will write.

Source - *The Journal Book* - edited by Toby Fulwiler (1982)