



Mansfield ISD – AP Language and Composition 2019 Summer Reading

PURPOSE

Your AP teachers share your passion for knowledge and dedication to excellence, and they look forward to working with you next year. Statistics prove that reading widely and deeply improves test scores and increases student success both in college and in their future careers. In order to increase your chances for success as an AP student, it is important for you to stay intellectually engaged (especially during those long summer months of unstructured time) so that you continue to grow as a scholar. Therefore, MISD requires that all AP students participate in a summer reading program. The titles you read during the summer are a great way to begin the new school year with a shared experience for discussion and writing, and all of the books are appropriate both to the thematic focus of the upcoming year and to your particular grade level. For our AP Language and Composition class, we want our students to build a repertoire of nonfiction. Reading nonfiction books will help students build a depth of knowledge that they will be able to pull from when preparing for their AP Language test and will continue to prepare students for the academic rigor of future college and AP English readings they will encounter in college.

Thematic Subject: Social Justice

REQUIRED READING #1:

Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

On April 12, 1963, while Martin Luther King was in the Birmingham jail because of his desegregation demonstrations, eight prominent white Alabama clergymen published the following statement in the local newspapers urging blacks to withdraw their support from Martin Luther King and his demonstrations. Although they were in basic agreement with King that there should be "honest and open negotiation of racial issues", they accused King of being an outsider, of using "extreme measures" that incited "hatred and violence", that King's demonstrations were "unwise and untimely", and that the racial issues should instead be "properly pursued in the courts." Access the *Clergymen's Letter* here:

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/letter-to-martin-luther-king/>

A copy of the newspaper where the clergymen's letter was published was smuggled into Dr. King's jail. No paper being allowed in his jail, Dr. King first began his response to their letter by writing in the margins of the newspaper, then on scraps of paper (also smuggled in), finally finishing the letter on a pad given to him by his lawyers who were eventually allowed to see him. The now-famous civil rights guidepost, [*Letter From Birmingham Jail*](#) was the result.

REQUIRED READING #2:

Choose ONE of the following works of literature:

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

OR

The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

ASSIGNMENT

The authors and works we have selected for this year's summer reading represent the quality of literary works most frequently used on the Advanced Placement Language Exam.

Letter from Birmingham Jail:

In preparation for a study of rhetoric (persuasive speech) this year, please do the following:

- (1) Read the *Clergymen's Letter* and *The Letter from Birmingham Jail*
- (2) Complete the attached Rhetorical Web.

Be prepared to discuss both readings and your web answers on the 2nd day of class. Dr. King's *Letter* is lengthy. Allow at least 2-3 hours to read both pieces and fill out the Rhetorical Web.

Required Novel Choice:

We suggest you annotate the text using high-level notations, not just summary, by either writing in your text or using post-it notes throughout the text. Make note of interesting ideas or passages, as well as questions you may have. Make note of literary or rhetorical devices and thematic connections. Annotating texts while reading helps connect our minds with the written word. Have a conversation with the texts! Your annotations are not graded, but they will help you on the first assessment and throughout the first semester.

The ongoing discussions of the novels in class will focus on the **thematic connections of social justice** and your ability to provide specific text evidence to support your connections. Consider the following guiding questions as you read:

1. What are the major thematic subjects (equality, gender, justice, etc.) present in your selection? Pay attention to how these thematic subjects **develop** over the course of the novel.
2. What literary devices (metaphor, simile, personification, imagery, etc.) does the author use in your selection? How do these devices help create meaning?

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SUMMER READING

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING! During the **third week** of school, you will write an essay over your novel choice. This assessment will measure your understanding of the plot and major thematic issues. Your novel will also be used throughout the first semester for continued literary and rhetorical analysis. Your summer reading selection will lay the foundation for success on the AP exam. Additionally, you should be prepared to participate in class discussions and/or seminars related to the summer reading assignments.

Reading selections are pulled from the Mansfield ISD approved reading list. Your AP teachers are always reading and analyzing new selections that will prepare students for success. As a district, Mansfield ISD embraces the life-long love of reading and it is our goal to promote a passion for reading in our students.

Plagiarism:

In order to fully prepare our students for expectations at the collegiate level, plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. Please refer to the following link for guidance:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

There are many resources available online, at the library, and in bookstores.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the teachers below. Have a good summer!

Mansfield High School: Cindy Bridges – cindybridges@misdmail.org

Lake Ridge High School: Linda Rink – lindarink@misdmail.org

Legacy High School: Lisbeth Bennett – lisbethbennett@misdmail.org

Timberview High School: Ekena Hawkins – ekenahawkins@misdmail.org

Summit High School: Carol Boles – carolboles@misdmail.org

Frontier High School: Karen Anthony - karenanthony@misdmail.org

Mansfield ISD Contact: Theresa Pollok – theresapollok@misdmail.org

Read *Letter from Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King, Jr. On the rhetorical web template below, take notes and provide examples for the corresponding rhetorical strategies and appeals. In most cases, you should have **multiple answers with multiple sentences. Include textual evidence in each box.** Print these last five pages out and bring to class on the second day of class.

Audience For whom was the piece written?

1

2

3

Exigence What is “sticking in the speaker’s craw?” What were the circumstances surrounding the original delivery and/or publication of the piece?

1

2

Purpose What does the speaker want the reader to do, believe, or feel by the end of the piece? (different from exigence)

1

2

3

Ethos [include 2-3 quotations that strengthen the speaker’s/writer’s reliability, credibility and trustworthiness.]

1

2

3

Logos [include 2-3 quotations that serve as appeals to the audience's logic.]

1

2

3

Pathos [include 2-3 quotations that serve as appeals to the audience's emotions.]

1

2

3

Diction/Detail Word choices that evoke strong emotion from the audience

1

2

Details/Imagery/Words that are repeated

1

2

Imagery and details that paint a picture for the audience (sensory images)

1

2

Syntax sentence structure

1

2

Parallel structure / Repetition

1

2

Unusual Punctuation Marks

1

2

Metaphor/Simile

1

2

3

Allusions (references to well known outside sources)

1

2

3

Hyperbole (exaggeration)

1

2

3

Tone at the beginning, middle, and end with words/phrases that support this tone. (How does the author create mood by word usage?)

1

2

3

How does King specifically respond to the clergy's letter and their points? You will need to say "...the clergy says..., and MLK Jr responds with..."

1

2

3

4

5

Structure of the essay. What are the major sections of this letter?

1

2

3