

To: sophomores who will be taking AP English III

Re: summer reading requirement

The AP English III team would like to congratulate you on the completion of your sophomore year and to commend your decision to participate in the Advanced Placement program. We hope that you are excited to embark on a new journey at Plano East as an AP English student. The course covers nonfiction and fiction, American literature and rhetoric, Aristotle through contemporary writers. We strongly support the College Board's philosophy that reading in an AP course should be both wide and deep.

The AP program at Plano East requires summer reading at both the junior and senior level. The Advanced Placement Language and Composition Exam you will take next May demands the ability to read both closely and analytically and we would like you to begin reading in such a manner over the summer prior to your junior year. Although the College Board does not require specific works, the more a student has read will correlate with the success that he or she will have on the AP Language and Composition exam as well as the AP Literature and Composition exam taken your senior year.

This summer we ask that you choose a pair from the following and read BOTH pieces of the pair.

Theme 1 – Education

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

Theme 2 – Politics

Lincoln at Gettysburg by Garry Wills
Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Theme 3 – War

A Piece of My Heart by Keith Walker
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Theme 4 – Coming of Age

An Hour Before Daylight by Jimmy Carter
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Since the majority of the choices are contemporary pieces of fiction and nonfiction, some content is potentially sensitive. Literature of this level requires considerable maturity. It is our hope that you will appreciate the textual richness of these pieces and that you will find it thought-provoking. This work is challenging reading and has been chosen in order

to strengthen your language skills before the AP course and the AP exam. We think you will learn from and enjoy both selections.

As you read your selected pairing, highlight and annotate the following:

- Author's purpose
- Thematic connection
- Characterization
- Literary devices
- Rhetorical devices
- Exigence
- Audience
- Significant/ poignant quotations

Below is a list of paperbacks that you will be encouraged to supply for the fall semester. We work with Barnes and Noble at 15th and 75 to assure that they are available to students throughout the semester, but they may be purchased at other bookstores such as Half Price Books or from internet suppliers such as Amazon.com. Teachers also have a limited supply if needed.

- The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Also, for your information, the following books will be required reading in the spring semester.

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Devil in the White City by Eric Larsen
- In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
- Moby Dick by Herman Melville

Thank you,
The AP 3 English Team