

"You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, not look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on the spectres in books. You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me, you shall listen to all sides and filter them from yourself."

— Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

Course Description:

The Advanced Placement English Language course aims to inspire you to be lifelong learners (and lovers) of language! As a college level course, the content and instruction are designed both to prepare you for the rigors of the college classroom, and to help you unpack the power of words and the art of composition. Applying the words of Walt Whitman, you will uncover your own voice through active reading, thinking, writing, synthesizing, analyzing, and arguing. Works from a variety of time periods and rhetorical contexts will provide you with springboards for discussion and models for crafting your own writing. Texts and assignments will expand beyond the written word to include visual arts, graphic novels, political cartoons, photography, architecture, and advertisements. It is essential that you take full responsibility for your education. I will provide materials and opportunities, but as independent, focused individuals you will have to make the most of these resources, and often determine in which direction the course will run. Students who complete this course are expected to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

HERE ARE YOUR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jbillings@achs.net over the summer. I will respond as soon as possible.

PART 1: Read over the titles on the AP Summer Reading List. Over the summer, read one book of your choice. You will be tasked with creating a *Book Love* presentation, analysis, and review of the text when you return to school in September. Directions to follow!

PART 2: Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

As you read, focus in particular on passages that refer to *education, learning, knowledge, intelligence*. Annotate these passages in your book. Be sure to cover the breadth of the novel. In your notebook, handwrite a response which discusses where, how, and from whom Huck receives his education. Consider too: How does he feel about being educated? Do you think Huck is smart? Do you think Tom is smart? Next, copy into your notebook samples of Huck's speech. Include a sample of Huck's dialogue, and a sample of his narration. Remember to include page numbers.

PART 3: Read the following essays from *50 Essays, 6th Edition*.

Stephen King, "Reading to Write" p. 231

Frederick Douglass, "Learning to Read and Write" p. 127

Maya Angelou, "Graduation" p. 17

