

An open letter to AP students regarding summer reading.

Dear Young Scholar,

Congratulations for choosing to accept the rigor of AP English Language or AP English Literature! Both of these courses promise to challenge you intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Through these classes you will become much more confident and adept in your facilitation of language, AND have fun doing it!

As Aristotle noted, "*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.*" Therefore, summer reading is not an onerous burden, but an opportunity to develop the excellent habit of reading and continuous improvement. Your assignment is threefold in order of importance:

- I. **READ THE BOOS! AP IS FOR CONTENDERS, NOT PRETENDERS!**
- II. **Annotate:** You all have been shown how to annotate for understanding; I encourage you to annotate for enjoyment. While making notations in your book, **converse** with the author. Note your reactions to situations and characters, express your feelings and frustrations, and do not hesitate to **challenge** the author or some of her creations.
- III. **Look up unfamiliar words:** The breadth and depth of your vocabulary establishes the horizons of your mind!

I look forward to seeing you all in August confident that we are all just a little more astute, more learned, more *excellent* from our summer reading!

Peace,

Mr. C

Please find the books for the AP English classes listed below. Make certain that you look at the correct list based on the class you are taking. If you are unsure of which class you will be in, consult with the front office, Mr. Stone, or guidance before purchasing your books.

AP Language Book List

- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

AP Literature Book List

- *Good Poems* by Garrison Keillor
- *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy