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Spring 2022

Dear AP English Language and Composition Students,

I am truly happy that you have taken on the rigor of an AP English class, and I am thrilled to have the honor of preparing you for the AP exam. My goal is to help you develop your voice as an inquisitive reader and profound writer. I applaud the commitment you are about to make, and in order to properly prepare you for the AP exam and get to know you as readers/writers, it is imperative that we begin our journey this summer.

**Your first assignment includes reading one of the following memoirs (or one of your own choosing):**

\*\*\**Thinking in Pictures* By Temple Grandin

\*\*\**The Glass Castle* By Jeannette Walls

*Breaking Night* By Liz Murray

*The Color of Water* By James McBride

*Blue Plate Special* By Kate Christensen

\*\*\**My Beloved World* By Sonia Sotomayor

\*\*\**I am Malala* By Malala Yousafzai

*All Over but the Shoutin'* By Rick Bragg

*Black Bird Fly Away* By Hugh Gregory Gallagher

*Into Thin Air* By Jon Krakauer

I have several copies available for books with \*\*\*. All other books, however, I only have one copy of each. Since there is only one of each of these texts, they are first come, first served. You are also free to purchase your own copy of any of these texts. Choose the text you are most interested in to ensure your success.

**If you select your own memoir, you MUST have this approved by June 7th at 2:12pm. Simply email me with the title and author so I can determine its appropriateness for the assignment.**

As you read, consider the beliefs and values of the writer. They will express many throughout their work, but you must keep in mind that they rarely will explicitly state them. You will come to understand them as you read the text and experience their reactions to the world around them.

**Your second assignment involves considering the beliefs the author holds about life or human nature, and writing an essay arguing how the author was successful in changing the beliefs or perspective of the audience.** Although I have no length requirements and I am not providing you with an outline, bear in mind that you need to accomplish the following. Provide...

-an introduction that appropriately familiarizes the reader with whom you are writing about, the title of their work, and the messages the author attempts to communicate with their audience

-body paragraphs should address the author's belief(s), evidence of how the author communicates them, and your analysis of how their use of language changes their audience.

(Analyses = What is the author doing/using? How will this impact readers? How will that impact result in a change of perspective or belief?)

-a conclusion which allows the reader to reflect on the text's function in society as a whole.

**Consult the following chart of some rhetorical devices you will use this year, as well as in your essay:**

<http://blog.prepscholar.com/ap-language-and-composition-terms> (On Google Classroom)

As you read, I highly recommend you annotate the text. If the book is not yours, annotate with sticky notes. This will allow you to gather all important details needed as support for your essay. Keep in mind that if you are plugging along in reading, you may see something key you'd like to address in your essay, but have difficulty finding it later without these notes. **Don't just look for a device - find a passage that really hits home with you. Note passages that you think are powerful, memorable, shocking, enlightening, etc. Then, you can look at those passages and determine what device is being used.** If you try to just search for devices, you'll have difficulty explaining how the author changed you because you weren't personally moved by that passage. But I promise you - any passage you find compelling or moving - the author is definitely doing something specific to make you feel that way!

**DUE DATES:**

The language analysis associated with your chosen memoir is due on **Friday, August 5th by 11:59pm**

**\*Required revision, after my feedback has been given, is due August 14th by 11:59pm**

**You will need to submit to...**

Google Classroom: Class code = mpnhth4 (Please join now, don't wait until our June 1st meeting)

I will be available by email throughout the summer should you have any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I am excited to begin a great new school year with you. Happy reading!

Mrs. Robillard

[robillardk@plymouth.k12.ct.us](mailto:robillardk@plymouth.k12.ct.us)

Room 213

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SEE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE REGARDING THE ESSAY IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES

## Additional Recommendations for the Memoir Essay

Regarding the body of your paper, you may organize your paper in many different ways.

Option 1: Perhaps you found three particular lessons the author appears to want to communicate. In each body paragraph, you can note a different message. Within each paragraph, you can note whatever strategies are used to communicate them.

Example: Body 1 - Belief 1

Evidence 1 - Imagery

Evidence 2 - Diction

Evidence 3 - Comparison

Body 2 - Belief 2

Evidence 1 (other devices throughout, one or two can be repeated but overall try to be varied)

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

Body 3 - Belief 3

Evidence 1

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

Option 2 : Did you only notice one belief emphasized throughout the text in many different ways?

Example: (all paragraphs about one change caused by the author)

Body 1 -Device 1 (Imagery)

Evidence 1

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

Body 2 - Device 2 (Diction)

Evidence 1

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

Body 3 - Device 3 (Comparison)

Evidence 1

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

Option 3 - Your own method of organization! This is also fine, but also feel free to contact me if you need any feedback about your own chosen organization.

There are many different ways to answer the essay question. I am not expecting you to find “certain” devices/strategies. There is no one “right answer”. I am simply assessing your ability to analyze what authors use when they write, and provide convincing in-depth analysis. Don’t worry about being “wrong”, just focus on asking yourself if you fully explained the importance and result of your evidence.