

AP SUMMER LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Summer 2023

Students will read the following works of Literature:

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

JOURNALS: as you read *In Cold Blood*, and *Huckleberry Finn*, you will keep a dialectic journal. I recommend highlighting /annotating as you read. If you mark several quotations as you read each chapter, you can select the best ones you have for the chapter. You should journal after each chapter-do not save it until the end of the book.

You should write these journals in one notebook. You may use composition notebooks or spiral bound notebooks. You will use the same one over the summer that you use during the school year, so choose wisely. These journals will consist of quotations to which you respond critically for each work. Please label and date journals appropriately. Select one quotation or passage for approximately every 15 pages. Respond to the quotations, focus on the ways in which the author uses language to create an effect. What is it about the language that stands out makes the passage distinctive? How does the passage reflect the author's style and reveal larger themes of the work? I expect responses to be developed thoughtfully and intellectually. Responses should be approximately 60 words in length.

The dialectical journals should be constructed in the following manner: Chapter Date Quote Response. Write the quote from the left side of the paper with page citation. You should take a quote approximately every 15 pages. You can have more than one quote and response per page, and you can use the back of the page.

Your response and analysis of the book should be written on the opposite side of the page. For the RESPONSE column, you have several ways to respond to a text, but you only need to use one way.

Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text

Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or a character

Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences

Write about what it makes you think or feel

Argue with or speak to the character or author

Responses should be approximately 60 words in length.

This is due the first day of school.

ASSIGNMENT 1:

Students will read *In Cold Blood*.

Respond in an essay of at least 350 words to one of the prompts below using *In Cold Blood* to support your argument. DUE DATE is August 5.

The tone of a book reveals an author's attitude toward the subject matter. Capote in *In Cold Blood* to be both objective and sympathetic. Is this possible? Did he achieve it?

Respond to the following quote from *In Cold Blood*. Discuss its meaning within the work as well as its validity to society today.

"Then he said something about a movie...said this show took place in Biblical times, and there was a scene where a man was flung off a balcony, thrown to the mob of men and women, who tore him to pieces. And he said that was what came to mind when he saw the crowd in the square. The man being torn apart. And the idea that maybe that was what they might do to him. Said it scared him so bad that his stomach hurt.... course he was wrong, and I told him so-nobody was going to harm him, regardless of what he'd done; folks around here aren't like that.

ASSIGNMENT 2:

Students will read *The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn*

Choose one of the following prompts and write a well structure and insightful five paragraph essay. DUE AUGUST 30.

1. At the end of the novel, Huck says, "I reckon I go to light out of the territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and civilize me. And I can't stand it. I been there before. Why, at the end of the book, does Huck reject civilization? You should show instances of hypocrisy, cruelty, and social satire in the novel.
2. Earnest Hemmingway once said that all Americans literature came from one book: *The Adventures of Huck Finn*. He said, "It's the best book we got." Examine the novel as a masterpiece of American literature. Does it deserve a place in the canon of Great Books? Support or refute Hemmingway's claim. Take a stand for or against the inclusion of this novel as required high school reading. Provide specific and intelligent reasons, and support those reasons with specific examples from the novel, as well as relevant quotations.

Vocabulary list will be sent during the summer.