May 2019
TO: Students entering AP English 11: Language and Composition
RE: Summer Reading

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition focuses on prose writing, especially non-imaginative prose. Our class throughout the year will also examine American Literature. Study of our nation’s literature will teach you much about our American heritage that a study of history alone does not reveal. This summer’s reading list is designed to introduce you to some masters of the prose style as well as to some of the thematic issues the class will address.

For each piece that you read you are to write a 2 ½ - 3 page (double spaced, 1 inch margins, Times 12 point font, parenthetically cited in MLA format) analysis of the work that is supported by quotations from the text. The primary source for the supportive detail should be the text and not secondary source commentary. If resources other than the text are used, be sure that they too are cited in the MLA style as presented in Writing Research Papers. Please note that you are not required to use secondary sources. All papers should have a Works Cited page even if the only text cited is the novel. (Note: avoid sources such as Schmoop and Spark Notes, etc.) Your analysis must address two of these three thematic concerns for each text:

1. What constitutes a meaningful life or existence
2. The importance of the individual: how individuals express themselves and affect others
3. The role that environment, both physical and societal, plays in shaping individuals

Your required pieces of literature are: Walden by Henry David Thoreau, and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain.

Further suggestions: We will refer to items from the summer reading list during class; therefore, you may either want to keep a journal as you read or to purchase a paperback copy of the book that you can highlight as you read. Avoid procrastination and do not attempt to complete this assignment the week before school begins. I will collect hard copies of these two essays on the first day of class, and they will provide the first opportunity to evaluate your writing skills. Your essays must also be submitted electronically to turnitin.com through Canvas. You will receive instructions on the first day of school for the electronic submission. Any essays turned in late will receive a late penalty of 30%. I am including a copy of the rubric that I will use to evaluate your work.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and hope that you enjoy your summer.

Sincerely

Michelle Barron
English Department Chair
AP Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

Basic Requirements: 
- meets length requirement of 2 ½ - 3 pages
- cites the primary text
- answers at least two of the following questions: what constitutes a meaningful life or existence; how individuals express themselves and affect others; how physical and social environment shapes individuals

6 (100% = 30 pts)
- meets all basic requirements and is excellent in overall quality
- contains successfully introduced, integrated, and documented quotations
- deals with the two themes fully and in an original manner
- pieces demonstrate the writer’s strong voice, sense of audience, and a willingness to take risks
- use of language is sophisticated and few if any mechanical flaws occur

5 (93% = 28 pts)
- meets all basic requirements and is above average in overall quality
- contains successfully introduced, integrated, and documented quotations
- deals with the two themes fully, but less insightfully than a 6
- is organized, focused, and perceptive
- exercises a genuine voice

4 (85% = 25.5 pts)
- meets all basic requirements and is slightly above average in overall quality
- quality may be less consistent and one theme may be less fully developed
- there are more strengths than weaknesses
- contains some quotations, but they are less successfully used
- mechanics may be inconsistent

3 (75% = 22.5 pts)
- one basic requirement may not be met and piece are slightly below average in overall quality
- one or both of the themes is less fully developed
- may only write on one of the themes
- may be mechanically competent but insufficiently developed
- may engage in more plot summary than in actual analysis
- more mechanical problems exist
- quotations are either used sparingly or not at all

2 (68% = 20 pts)
- does not fulfill the basic requirements and is below average in overall quality
- piece may be short or incomplete
- mechanical errors are distracting
- writing lacks depth of middle-range pieces
- transitions and conclusions may be abrupt
- quotations are not used for support

1 (60% = 18 pts)
- does not fulfill the basic requirements and is clearly below average in overall quality
- there are major weaknesses and few if any strengths
- a #1 lacks the redeeming qualities of a 2

X (0% = 0 pts)
- is not turned in and cannot be assessed