

****PLEASE REVIEW BOTH SECTIONS OF THIS HANDOUT****

Section 1:

This summer, we want you to engage in reading. In AP Language and Composition, students who are successful are those who *read*—voluminously, thoughtfully, and critically. We are suggesting some texts below that we think are great texts for students to read, most (if not all) of which are recommended summer reading by some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Explore as you wish, but for goodness' sake—READ this summer!

1. *Educated* by Tara Westover (nonfiction): Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. This explores her foray into the world of formal education as someone who began as an outsider. It will definitely help in the first unit about education and poverty because it provides personal experiences on the matter. It may also be a good example for essays regarding these topics.

2. *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (nonfiction): In this short philosophical memoir, Coates composes a letter to his son about the hazards and hopes of black male life. This text addresses issues of race, which is a great frame for lots of topics and discussions in the class.

3. *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (play): This play explores the Salem Witch Trials as an allegory for McCarthyism in the US in 1950s. The phrase “witch hunt” is thrown around often in modern politics and media, and the concept stems largely from this play.

4. *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie (fiction): A story about a Pakistani family of 3 siblings living in Britain in modern day. Their dad was an ISIS suicide fighter and they live under the spectre of that in a post-9/11 world where the British Prime Minister (also of Pakistani descent) is fiercely anti-terrorist in his political policies. This text gets you considering modern day conflicts about Islam, terrorism, and western culture.

5. *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngoze Adichie (fiction): A brilliantly written story that addresses American culture, Nigerian culture, immigration, and love. The story is a great exploration of cultures that you might not be familiar with (or maybe you are!), and it's written by a very respected contemporary author.

6. *No One is Coming to Save Us* by Stephanie Powell Watts (fiction): A contemporary exploration of race and class, inspired and influenced by *The Great Gatsby*. This text will be a support for our units about race and about media and pop culture.

7. *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (fiction): This is Ms. Ulrich's favorite and a total classic. The story might be set in the 1600's, but it's a story that could also happen today—a woman has an affair and ends up pregnant with a man's baby, but she won't tell anyone which man it was. Baby mama drama!!

FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS:

There are a lot of WONDERFUL texts that are often taught in some classes but not all of them. Here's a quick list of fiction texts that we think are excellent foundational texts you should read if you can:

- *1984* by George Orwell (The government is watching... and they're coming for you if you don't get in line!)
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley (Do you conform or do you challenge and push back?)
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (Can the average person overthrow a dictator? Or is it impossible?)
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (What is the government decided that women had no autonomy—politically or personally?)
- *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (Are we essentially good or evil people? What does it mean to be “civilized”?)

Section 2:

In the beginning of fall semester, we will quickly assign a few required texts. It is entirely up to you if you wait to read these texts when the school year begins or if you get a jump-start on that reading in the summer. Please at least purchase/borrow/secure a copy of these texts. The tentative due dates are listed. Dates are subject to change at the teacher's discretion.

1. *And Still We Rise* by Miles Corwin.

**This text is not difficult or dense, but it's LONG. This is the first book we'll assign this year, and the tentative due date is Sept 7.

2. Purchase / acquire *Thank You For Arguing, Revised and Updated Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, And Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs.

You will need this book the first week of class.