

Welcome to junior Advanced Placement. Students will be evaluated on summer reading during the first two weeks of school. In preparation for this course work, which emphasizes nonfiction selections and examination of argument, students must read a total of **two** books over the summer.

Books may be ordered from The Book Oasis on Main Street or borrowed from the Stoneham Public Library.

1) *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. For reasons even he does not understand, Bill Bryson decided in 1996 to walk the 2,100 mile Appalachian Trail. Winding from Georgia to Maine, this ‘hiker’s highway’ sweeps through the heart of some of America’s most beautiful and treacherous terrain. Nonfiction.

- ✓ Complete the Independent Reading Guide for Nonfiction (see attached) on *A Walk in the Woods* in preparation for an in-class writing assignment and Socratic Seminar discussion. This assignment will count between a quiz and a test grade.

2) *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs. This book introduces what Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson can teach us about the art of persuasion. “Knowing how to use the proper words is an art... Words are treacherous, they can either explain or conceal.” Get ready to open up a rhetorical toolbox that includes the language and composition tools of the trade!

It is recommended that students purchase *Thank You for Arguing* as annotation would allow students more effective use of the book as a resource throughout the year. {This book is also available as an eBook. }

- ✓ Use close reading strategies such as annotation, highlighting, post-it notes, note-taking or any other preferred strategy.
  1. Pay attention to the title and epigraph at the beginning of each chapter. It is your responsibility as an A.P. student to define *epigraph*.
  2. Focus on the *purpose* of each chapter.
- ✓ Bring your copy of your annotated book or your notes to use in our initial discussions to discuss rhetoric and the tools a writer uses. You can refer to your notes in our on-going conversations.

**Note:** A.P. students are also invited to read books from the general junior summer reading list of recommended books as many of those texts are not only enjoyable but will also broaden your reading background.

## Independent Reading Guide for Nonfiction

Please go to the school website and download this form as a word document onto your computer. **NUMBER** and **TYPE** your responses (Times New Roman size 12, double-space), print them out and bring to class the first day. If you have technological issues that make this difficult, you may write your responses instead. All responses should be *thoughtful and thorough*. You are expected to respond to *all parts* of each question. If necessary, use more space than what is provided.

Title: A Walk in the Woods Author: Bill Bryson

This nonfiction book: (underline all that apply)

Instructs      Informs      Describes      Persuades      Entertains

### Elements of Nonfiction:

1. What is the author's purpose(s) for writing this? Consider the word choices above. Be specific. Answer in your own words.

2. What kind of information, facts, or examples does the author include to support the purpose(s)?

3. For which groups of people (audience) would this book be most appealing? Specifically what does the author include to appeal to these audiences?

4. Choose one specific chapter and discuss the technique(s) the author uses to appeal to the reader. Check all that apply and provide at least one specific example for each from the chapter. Identify the chapter.

*Description –*

*Emotional Language –*

*Argument –*

*Quotations –*

*Comparison and contrast –*

*Personal recollections –*

5. From this *same* chapter – identify and summarize the thematic concept or central idea of this chapter.

6. Support the above-stated theme with a TYPED sentence or short passage that includes a page #.

7. What segment, portion or focus of this book (not the chapter you wrote about before) would make a good documentary? Explain. Be specific.

8. If you had a chance to interview the author Bill Bryson, what three questions would you ask him? These should be *thoughtful* questions. Really think about this.

9. What steps do you think Bryson took to research and write this book?

10. What do you think is this author's greatest strength as a writer? Provide a short paragraph to explain your reason and provide an example from the selection to support your reason. This should accompany your response.

**Note:** Since class discussion is a vital part of the A.P. class, please come to class prepared to participate in a discussion about this selection. The more thoughtful and complete your responses are in the nonfiction report, the more effective your class participation will be in the Socratic Seminar Discussion.

Students have asked for a separate, suggested reading list of books that will enhance their repertoire. These titles show up frequently on other Advanced Placement Language suggested reading lists. You may want to consider reading one, some, or all!

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston is a Southern love story full of heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. Fiction.

***October Sky*** by Homer Hickman. It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying. Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickman nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. The introspective son of the mine's superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood forever, Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but also how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its men alive. As the boys began to light up the tarry skies with their flaming projectiles and dreams of glory, Coalwood would never be the same. Looking back after a distinguished NASA career, Hickman shares the story of his youth in a coal mining town. Nonfiction.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** by Rebecca Skloot. Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southern farmer when her cells, taken without her knowledge, became one of the most important tools in medicine. Her cells, grown in culture, are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years. HeLa cells were vital for developing vaccines and cures and have been sold by the billions. Yet she remains buried in an unmarked grave. Nonfiction.

***The Road*** by Cormac McCarthy. A father and his son walk alone through post-apocalyptic, burned America. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. The novel boldly imagines a hopeless future, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Mature. Fiction. Futuristic.

***The Things They Carried*** by Tim O'Brien. This novel is an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic study of men at war that brilliantly -- and painfully -- illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul. Focusing on the members of a single platoon (one of whom happens to be a 21-year-old grunt named Tim O'Brien) the 22 interconnected stories of this collection catalogue not only the things they carried into battle -- M-16s, grenade launchers, candy, Kool-Aid, and cigarettes -- but more importantly, the things they carried inside, and the nightmares they carried home. Historical Fiction.

***The Chosen*** by Chaim Potek. The Jewish enclaves of Brooklyn, NY form the backdrop for this novel that begins just before D-Day and traces the unlikely friendship of two Jewish teens as they watch World War II draw to a close and the new state of Israel emerge. The story revolves around the evolving, and sometimes painful, relationships between these boys and their fathers, and the conflicts the young men must face as they come of age. Fiction.

***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett. Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step. Skeeter, young and white has a degree but in 1962 Mississippi, all that matters is that she gets married. Abilene, a black maid, is raising her seventeenth white child. Minny is the sassiest woman in the state. Although very different, these women will come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. Historical fiction.