**2017 Summer Reading and Assignments**

**AP English Language and Composition**

**Arlington High School**

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**Welcome to AP Language and Composition!**

AP Language and Composition is a year-long, college-level course designed to engage you in the study of language and rhetoric through the reading and analysis of rich and diverse texts written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. At the same time, you will be engaged in becoming skilled writers who effectively compose for a variety of purposes. Our study will be focused on making you aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way conventions of genre contribute to effective writing. In order to prepare for this course, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and writing skills throughout the summer. *These assignments are not intended to ruin your summer, but to help you keep your brains working throughout the lazy, hazy days of summer*. **All written assignments in this packet are expected to be completed and turned in on the first day of class this August.** In addition to these assignments, ***you will be given comprehensive tests over the three works during the first week of school.*** While you shouldn’t wait until the last couple weeks of summer to get started, if you start too early in the summer **make sure to take good notes** and review the material before being assessed on them in August. An electronic copy of this packet can be obtained by bringing me a flash drive prior to the end of this school year or by going to my teacher webpage which can be accessed from the Arlington High website. I look forward to getting to know you this upcoming school year!

Please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any questions about these assignments you may have over the summer.

**I. *Book-Length Reading***

1. You will read the following three works:

a. *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom (nonfiction)

b. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien (fiction)

c. *March: Book One* by John Lewis (graphic novel)

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\***In addition, have a copy of the following by the first week of class:

*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King\*\*\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: This book has a few instances of strong language. If you are uncomfortable with this, let me know in advance and an alternate book will be assigned to you.

2..Complete the written assignments below for each of these three works.

***A. Tuesdays With Morrie***

After reading *Tuesdays with Morrie:*

**Create a list of questions about life similar to lessons in the book and interview someone you know over 60**. Ask them specific questions about their life experiences. *Type your questions and take notes on the person’s responses*. Then write a short essay (minimum 1 ½ -2 pages) **detailing your interview process and your thoughts about the responses you got from the person you chose to interview.** Point out any responses that may connect with *Tuesdays With Morrie.* (See below for written assignment requirements)

***B. The Things They Carried***

After reading *The Things They Carried:*

***Choose something you are carrying.*** It may be a concrete, tangible object or something more abstract, intangible, or symbolic. Whatever you choose, let it be something that matters to you and that means something to you. Ask yourself questions:

* Why am I carrying this?
* Did I make the choice or is someone making me carry it?
* Do I wish I could put it down?
* What does it weigh?
* What does it demand of me to carry it?
* Where would I be without it?

Then, **WRITE a letter to someone close to you in which you talk about this “thing you carry”.** Write a letter that truly makes your reader understand this thing you carry, why you take it with you, and how its weight affects you. The letter may be serious or humorous, but it should be powerful. Your tone will depend to a great extent on what you choose to write about in your letter. *Your letter must be a minimum of two pages*. (see below for written assignment requirements)

***C. March Book One***

In graphic novels, images are used to relay messages with and without accompanying text, adding additional dimension to the story. After you have read, **choose 3 pages/panels** that were particularly meaningful/impactful to you because of the way the author used the images/text and write a paragraph for each, **reflecting on why you chose each of these pages/panels, what in particular struck you about the author’s methods, etc.**

***VI. Written Work Requirements:***

All written portions must be:

* Typed
* 12 pt font (use a font that is neat and legible—i.e. times new roman, cambria, calibri, etc.)
* Double-spaced
* MLA format if referencing the book and/or using a quote in your paper