
High School English Language Arts Summer Reading

Title	Author	Genre	Grade 10
Think Like a Freak	Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner	Non-Fiction	

Book Summary

Think Like a Freak, by the authors of Freakonomics, challenges readers to think "outside the box." Through stories and analogies, the book challenges ideas about how we go about learning, pushing its readers to ask the simple questions, admit they don't know things, not take the easy answers for granted, and quit things.

The book uses real-world examples to drive its messages home. Where else are you going to learn about thinking differently than analyzing how to win the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest? Or how to combat ulcers by swallowing harmful bacteria?

Think Like a Freak is used in this class to get AP Seminar to get students to think differently about how to tackle real-world problems, an essential skill when accomplishing the tasks and goals of the course!

Themes within the book

Asking the right questions; overcoming not knowing; thinking like a child; persuasion; quitting; incentivizing others

Alignment to Ohio's English Reading Informational Text Language Arts Standards

Standard 1 - Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Standard 2 - Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; provide a summary or thorough analysis of the text, including the appropriate components.

Standard 3 - Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Standard 4 - Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

Standard 5 - Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Standard 6 - Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Standard 7 - Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Standard 8 (RI only) - Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence

Standard 9 - Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Standard 10 - Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Intended use with students

This novel is used as a springboard to thinking differently in AP Seminar. They are encouraged all year long to "think like a Freak" when going about their studies and performance tasks.