

AP English Language and Composition Summer Assignment 2025

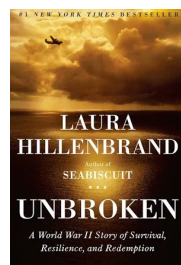
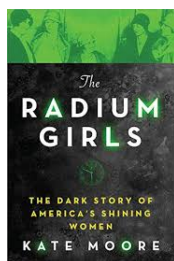
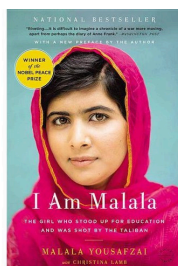
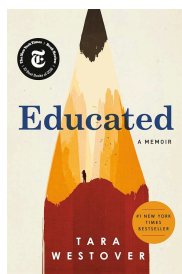
Dear Students and Parents,

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is designed to promote higher-level cognitive and rhetorical skills. The year-long curriculum provides an overview of American literature as well as opportunities for college-level writing. To qualify for this class, students must be eager to learn and expand their awareness. Curriculum and the summer assignments are centered around fiction, nonfiction, and current events. Students are encouraged to approach their summer reading with an open mind and thoughtful reflection. Trust that each task has been selected with care and purpose to support academic and personal growth. The themes and experiences these texts present will lead to rich classroom discussions and help build the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills vital to the AP Language course.

Please prepare for class by completing the following three tasks.

Part One: Read one nonfiction book*

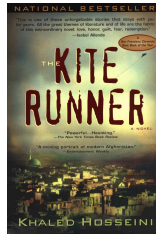
Choose from the following titles: [\[click here for a link to general ideas of each book\]](#)



I have a few copies of each of these texts. You can also borrow from the public library and access e-books and audiobooks with the Libby app (available using your public library card), or you may purchase a copy.

*** Please email me by August 1 to briefly introduce yourself and let me know which nonfiction text you are reading.**

Part Two: Read *The Kite Runner*



I have several copies of this in room 219. You may also borrow from the public library, or you may purchase a copy. You may find it advantageous to invest in your own copy so that you can make marginal notations while reading. This modern novel is a powerful work of literature that explores themes such as redemption, loyalty, identity, and the human capacity for both compassion and failure.

The Kite Runner, written by Khaled Hosseini, introduces readers to the injustices and hardships experienced in places like Afghanistan, while also inviting empathy for a range of human experiences—between fathers and sons, friends and enemies, bullies and bystanders. The novel includes a mature scene (a reference to sexual assault) and topic (including a suicide attempt). When considered as a whole, however, the text offers students valuable insight into a world that may seem foreign to them. Reading this novel promises to deepen students' understanding of human nature, moral complexity, and the cultural context of another part of the world—skills and perspectives essential to success in AP Language and Composition.

Students who feel uncomfortable may choose to skip specific scenes without penalty. Alternatively, students may read *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford, a historical novel set during the era of Japanese internment, as a substitute assignment. Similar to *The Kite Runner*, this text provides a powerful perspective on cultural identity, family expectations, and the challenges of finding one's voice. *Let me know by August 1 if you choose the alternate text, and/or I can also let you know what pages of The Kite Runner to skip.*

Here is some insight on *The Kite Runner* from former students of the class:



I think reading *The Kite Runner* in school is extremely valuable for students. While reading this novel, I was very intrigued and did not want to put it down. I enjoy reading when I find an influential book that has meaning, and I believe this book was exactly that. I would go as far to say that this book is one of the best books I have ever read. The true intention of this book was very deep and went so far beyond surface level discussing so many different topics and feelings.

-- K.B.



This book had the biggest impact on me compared to any book I have read before. It left me wanting more and flipping every single page. Sometimes it was challenging to read, but without Hosseini's techniques, this book would not have made as much of an impact as it did.

-- R.M.



The Kite Runner was my favorite assigned reading for any class so far.

-- T.B.



It exposes students to a more modern, cultural piece that they might not read otherwise. It was my favorite book we read all year, and I'm currently reading his other book *A Thousand Splendid Suns* for my independent novel in AP Lit!

-- S.I.

How to approach the reading assignments:

Read each text with an eye for the author's style of writing and how it influences the meaning of the work. As you read, look for recurring words, ideas, and symbols that offer insight into human nature and transcendent, real-life situations. Think about diction, tone, and other ways each author's language creates purpose.

You are strongly encouraged to be an active reader and writer as you prepare for this class. As you engage with each book, it will not be enough to simply read and try to remember. Instead, study the texts. Good notes tend to enhance comprehension, analysis, and retention.

If you would like to read ahead, other works that will be studied during the school year include: *Of Mice and Men* (in September), *Walden*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Outliers*.

Part Three: Respond to a Current Event

As an AP Language student, you will be expected to have certain knowledge of current events and the world. This awareness is essential to being a well-rounded critical thinker and will also assist you in the various essays you will be writing next year. This assignment gives you a chance to explore a topic that interests you while helping to increase your knowledge.

DIRECTIONS: Find, read, and respond to a current news article (one published in June, July, or August 2025) from a reputable newspaper, online source, magazine, etc.

Choose from the following categories:

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| - Health/Medicine | - U.S. Politics |
| - Sports | - Business |
| - Technology/Sciences | - International Affairs |
| - Local News (Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania) | - Big News: In your opinion, the most important story of the summer! |
| - Education | |

SUBMIT [in Schoology the first week of school] ½ to one-page response to the article that includes:

- 1) a one-paragraph summary of the article
- 2) a one-paragraph personal response - Why did you choose this article? Why is awareness of this topic important?
- 3) publication information for the article in MLA format

How will you be assessed during the first week of school:

- 1) An in-class essay in which you'll include ideas from your nonfiction book as evidence.
- 2) A test on *The Kite Runner*.
- 3) A written response to one current event article (see above).

Thank you in advance for your interest in this class and for your diligence in completing this challenge. See you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bouch
English Teacher
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