

**Mr. Bond, Mr. Boris, Ms. Thurston**

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**Advanced Placement Language and Composition & MAX AP English**

**Summer 2020 Reading Assignment**

Dear Amazing Future AP Language and Composition Student,

This year has been like no other we have ever seen, which means that this year's summer work will be a little different than usual. Our goals, however, remain essentially the same. We want students to maintain the sharpness of their thinking and the fullness of their concentration required for the deep and careful reading of challenging texts. Just as in any sport or activity, any lapse of engagement with reading may diminish one's skills--from speed to comprehension. We sincerely want your reading and thinking skills to stay vitally fresh and well honed.

Normally, we ask for a guided response (for example, a reading log or journal, plus an essay) so as to track the quality of your interaction with the text; however, given the varied nature of the extra demands of this unusual season, we trust you to focus your passion for reading in the ways best suited to you.

As such, this year, there will be no writing assignment due before we return to school. You should, however, complete the reading with the expectation that there will be a writing activity specifically attached to your reading when you return. To that end, it will be important for you to reference your active reading notation skills: As you read, you should highlight passages that seem important to the author's overall purpose; look up vocabulary that is new to you; and make note of the author's development of some salient argument by his/her development of motifs, use of imagery, literary devices, and/or other specific choices about the use of language.

The first thing you should do is select any one book from the list below and then read it with all the passion and integrity you can muster. (Each book is linked so that you can review it online before deciding which.) Since the focus next year will be deconstructing and creating non-fiction texts, we ask that you both stay engaged and expand your horizons by reading any one of these finely composed books--in addition to your other manifold pursuits or further chosen reading. Please feel free to read any number of these books beyond the required one; they all contain spellbinding stories that resonate beyond their particular contexts.

[Abbey, Edward: \*Desert Solitaire\*](#)

[Capote, Truman: \*In Cold Blood\*](#)

[Durrell, Gerald: \*My Family and Other Animals\*](#)

[King, Stephen: \*On Writing\*](#)

[Lewis, Michael: \*Moneyball\*](#)

[Markham, Beryl: \*West with the Night\*](#)

[Sobel, Dava: \*Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius...\*](#)

[Stevenson, Bryan: \*Just Mercy\*](#)

[Steinbeck, John: \*Travels with Charley\*](#)

[Strayed, Cheryl: \*Wild\*](#)

[Urrea, Luís Alberto: \*Devil's Highway\*](#)

[Young, Damon: \*The Art of Reading\*](#)

We are both thrilled to be your designated guides next year, and we look forward to your enthusiasm. Take good care this summer, and we will see you in the fall!

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