

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
11 AP English Language and
Composition
2017

High School West

HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Dear AP Composition student:

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! In an effort to keep your reading and writing skills sharp and to begin our course immediately when you return to school in September, I have created this assignment. As with all skills, the only way we develop and improve is through practice; in other words, read and write as often and as much as possible. To start you on your way to improving your writing skills, please complete this assignment before the start of the school year.

Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

“All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*. American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since.” -Ernest Hemingway

I cannot say that I agree with all that Hemingway has to say, but I do believe you will enjoy this journey. I will warn you that the dialect is difficult to read in the beginning, but in the end you will have your own southern accent.

There is another old man with whom I happen to agree, my father-in-law, Pop; he is one of the most well-read people I have ever encountered in my life. I asked him to reread *Huck Finn* with me so we could discuss it before I had to teach it for the first time. I provided a copy for him that was full of annotations from a previous teacher. Within two days I received a phone message, “I finished *Huck Finn*, I forgot what a wonderful novel it is. Thank you for having me read it again. BUT, as for all that underlining and margin notes and other scribbles—what is that for? I found it so distracting I could barely keep reading. I hope you don’t make your students do that!”

So in respect to Pop, I will not require annotations. I personally find them extremely helpful when I need to engage with a text for academic purposes. If you feel this is not necessary for a deep understanding of the novel, then I will respect your opinion. Please keep in mind that we will be discussing the book in detail and each of you will be expected to discuss this book using textual evidence as support. I might suggest that, in the least, you note page numbers of scenes you feel are pivotal to both plot and character development.

At the conclusion of our *Huck Finn* unit, you will be assessed on your knowledge of the text with an in-class argumentative essay on various topics that are discussed. Any annotations you write will be assessable to you. These notes must be either in the novel itself, or pre-approved before exam day. I have extra used copies of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in Room 170.

Please remember to bring any notes you have to school on the first day of class. All responses should be highly introspective and detailed, reflecting work on an AP level.

Lastly, you **MUST** go to guidance to pick up your summer packet regarding grade abatement for AP Language and Composition. This packet details exactly what grade abatement is and how it will work in our classroom. Please pick up the packet before the last day of school or within the first week of July.

I look forward to meeting you on the first day of classes in September.