

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading Program

Gaithersburg High School

OVERVIEW:

This summer, you will complete the following reading selections in preparation for Advanced Placement English Language and Composition this fall semester

1. *Hunger of Memory* by Richard Rodriguez
Be ready to discuss and write on this book the first week of school.
2. Read five essays from the list below. They may be by the same author or by different authors.
 - Sherman Alexie <http://www.fallsapart.com/essays.html>
 - Isaac Asimov http://www.stephenjaygould.org/ctrl/azimov_creationism.html
<http://chem.tufts.edu/AnswersInScience/RelativityofWrong.htm>
 - Francis Bacon <http://www.westegg.com/bacon/index.essays.html>
 - Joan Didion <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~zkurmus/html/didion.html>
 - W.E.B. Dubois <http://www.webdubois.org/>
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson http://www.transcendentalists.com/emerson_essays.htm
 - William Hazlitt <http://www.blupete.com/Literature/Essays/TableHaz.htm>
 - bell hooks <http://englishscholar.com/bellhooks.htm>
 - Helen Keller <http://www.sapphyr.net/women/helenkeller.htm>
 - H.L. Mencken <http://www.io.com/~gibbonsb/mencken.html>
 - George Orwell <http://www.george-orwell.org/>
 - Henry David Thoreau <http://thoreau.eserver.org/>
 - Virginia Woolf <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/>
 - Other suggested essayists—Joseph Addison, Margaret Atwood, James Baldwin, Annie Dillard, Ellen Goodman, Nadine Gordimer, Martin Luther King, Barry Lopez, Nancy Mairs, Carl Sagan, James Thurber, Alice Walker, Eudora Welty, E.B. White

Answer the following questions for EACH essay in complete sentences:

- What is the author's SUBJECT—a brief summary of the main idea?
- What is the OCCASION—the time and place, the context that prompted the writing?
- Who is the AUDIENCE—the group to whom the essay is directed?
- What is the PURPOSE of the essay—the reason behind the text?
- Who is the SPEAKER—the voice that tells the story?
- What is the TONE—the attitude of the author?
- How does the essay begin? (i.e. with an anecdote, or question or description, etc.)
- How does the essay end?

You will need to turn in your answers on the first day of class—deadline September 2. A sample graphic organizer is available on the GHS website.