

11 AP Language and Composition

Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

You will be reading two books (one fiction, one nonfiction). As you read, **take notes on eye-catching and thought-provoking language, and write down ideas and questions you may have.**

A. Fiction: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Assignment: Read the entire book. Answer both questions in fully-developed, well-supported typed (double-spaced) responses.

1. Which story affected/intrigued you the most? Reflect with examples.
2. How would you describe O'Brien's use of language? Discuss with examples.

B. Nonfiction: *The Best American Essays of the Century* edited by Joyce Carol Oates

Assignment: Read the following essays in the book:

"Stickeen" by John Muir (p. 28)

"Pamplona in July" by Ernest Hemingway (p. 98)

"What Are Master-pieces and Why Are There So Few of Them?" by G. Stein (p. 131) "The Crack-Up" by F. Scott Fitzgerald (p. 139)

"The Figure a Poem Makes" by Robert Frost (p. 176)

"Once More to the Lake" by E. B. White (p. 179)

"Notes of a Native Son" by James Baldwin (p. 220)

"A Hundred Thousand Straightened Nails" by Donald Hall (p. 252) "The Lives of a Cell" by Lewis Thomas (p. 358)

"The Solace of Open Spaces" by Gretel Ehrlich (p. 467)

"Total Eclipse" by Annie Dillard (p. 477)

"The Creation Myths of Cooperstown" by Stephen Jay Gould (p. 520) "They All Just Went Away" by Joyce Carol Oates (p. 553)

Take notes as you read each of the above essays. Select the two essays that you found most interesting and engaging. For each of these two essays, answer the following in fully-developed, well-supported typed (double-spaced) responses:

1. What is the subject of this essay? Why was it written? Who is the audience? What is its purpose? What do you know about the speaker of the essay?
2. How would you describe the writer's use of language and tone? Using examples, discuss how this particular style helps to establish the writer's position.

In addition to the outside writing assignments due Monday, September 8th, there will also be other assessments for both reading assignments.