

## AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignments

**For questions about the assignment or more information:**

**Emily Snedeker**

**Instructional Leader: English**

[esnedeker@gstarschool.org](mailto:esnedeker@gstarschool.org)

The following assignments are required for students who have taken AP Literature and will now move to AP Language or students who have previously taken Eng 2 Honors.

### **Required Texts:**

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

*Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs

### **Suggested Texts (extra credit if completed; no points reduced if incomplete):**

*Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris

All books can be purchased very inexpensively at amazon.com or thriftbooks.com and may be found at the public library. It is not required that students own the text, although *Thank You For Arguing* may be a useful reference piece throughout the year.

**Assignments will be due the first week of school. You will submit a hard copy and to Turnitin.com. You will create your account once school begins.**

**The following definitions and information will help you engage more closely with each text.**

### **Purpose for Reading**

What is your purpose for reading in AP Language and Composition? As AP students studying language and composition your purpose is not to study the novel as a work of fiction or the nonfiction work as a source of information, but as masterpieces of language. Your purpose for reading is to discover which elements of language these authors use and to what effect. You are ultimately studying STYLE and the components that comprise it.

Style involves the author's choice and arrangement of words in sentences (diction and syntax), the use of sensory and/or figurative language, the tone, and the mood. Look for such things as the length and complexity of the sentences; the use of words that are unusual or sophisticated or colloquial; and the use of elements such as allusion and irony. As you read think of adjectives that you could use to describe the author's style.

### **MLA Citations**

An excellent resource for MLA citations can be found at the Purdue OWL:  
[owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)

### **Please complete the following for *The Glass Castle*:**

As you read, you will be collecting passages that speak to the following topics.

Quotes and explanations should be typed and either glued onto index cards, or folded in half/stapled/taped so the quote is on one side, and the explanation is on the other. Here is how you will “collect” the passages:

1. Obtain an envelope. Write your name and “topic” on the front. Your assigned topic will depend on the month you were born (January is #1, February is #2, etc...). As you read, record quotations (with page number, chapter number and speaker name) on index cards or slips of paper. **On the backside of your card/paper, you should explain the relevance of the quote to the prompt.** How does the quote correspond to the theme? Does it answer any questions? Disprove the topic? Why is it important? What stood out to you? What is significant about the text? Place these slips inside your envelope.
2. The purpose of this assignment is to teach you to READ CLOSELY. The kinds of quotations you choose will be quite telling about the depth of thought you are bringing to the reading of *The Glass Castle*. You need to find passages that probe the idea of the prompt, rather than just containing general references to the topic.
3. Your envelope should contain at least 10-- 15 quotations relevant quotations.
4. Even though you are only tracking one topic for the summer, you will be expected to work with other envelope topics during the first week of school activities. These activities will include assessments like: essays, graded discussions, and group work. So I strongly suggest that you make some notes about the other topics on a piece of paper.

The Glass Castle: Envelope  
Topics

TOPIC #1 (January birthdays):

Read the epigraph by Dylan Thomas at the beginning of the book. Interpret the poem. Then trace its relevance throughout the memoir.

TOPIC #2 (February birthdays):

Collect passages that both describe and speak to the children’s “education”. What can you infer is important to the family? Keep in mind that education doesn’t only mean traditional schooling.

TOPIC #3 (March birthdays):

Trace and collect passages about both the mother and father’s methods for raising children. Be prepared to comment on how the parents’ views contrast with traditional methods.

TOPIC #4 (April birthdays):

Trace and collect passages about the role of religion in the book. What message about religion does Jeanette Walls seem to be making?

TOPIC #5 (May birthdays):

Although Jeanette faces great hardship during her childhood, she also grows and matures as a result of her experiences. Collect passages/events that contributed to her growth and maturity.

TOPIC #6 (June birthdays):

Select Jeanette's three most important character traits that allow her to escape from her impoverished childhood. Then find passages/quotes from the memoir to illustrate the traits you choose. Be sure to label each quote with the trait.

TOPIC #7 (July birthdays):

As teenagers, Lori, Jeanette and Brian forged a strong sibling bond that was crucial to their future happiness. Choose passages that help to describe their relationship and help to show how they encouraged one another to persevere in even the most difficult situations.

TOPIC #8 (August birthdays):

The title of the book is symbolic. Choose passages that not only describe/reference the "glass castle" but that ones that develop its symbolic significance for the family.

TOPIC #9 (September birthdays):

In what ways have Lori, Brian and Jeanette been damaged by their childhood experiences? Collect passages that are responsible for and/or contributed to their "damage".

TOPIC #10 (October birthdays):

Although Jeannette's parents had deep troubles, they also had their strong points, and Jeannette explores both sides with insight, humor and compassion. Characterize/describe Rex Walls. What perception about Rex did Jeanette paint for her readers? How are we supposed to feel about him? Then choose passages that support your characterization.

TOPIC #11 (November birthdays):

Although Jeannette's parents had deep troubles, they also had their strong points, and Jeannette explores both sides with insight, humor and compassion  
Characterize/describe Jeanette's mother. What perception about her did Jeanette paint

for her readers? How are we supposed to feel about her? Then choose passages that support your characterization.

TOPIC #12 (December birthdays) Choose topic 1 or 6

**Please complete the following assignment for *Thank You for Arguing*:**

Read the book, one section at a time (there are four major sections and a short introduction). For each of the four sections (combine the intro with Part I) write a short summary, which addresses the main points in the section, and integrates important terminology. The terms listed here are required in your summaries; it is encouraged that you include other key terms in your summaries and extra points may be added for their inclusion. Please bold the terms in the summary. Each section summary should be approximately 500-700 words.

Assignment must be typed in MLA format. Tunitin.com upload required upon return to school

**Required Terminology:**

**o Section Title: Intro/Offense**

- Ethos
- Pathos
- Logos
- Inductive Logic
- Deductive Logic

**o Section Title: Defense**

- False analogy
- Hasty generalization
- Tautology
- Red herring
- Phronesis

**o Section Title: Advanced Offense**

- Idiom
- Synecdoche
- Antithesis
- Irony
- Kairos

**o Section Title: Advanced Agreement**

- Introduction
- Narration
- Division
- Proof
- Refutation

**Strategy:** This assignment will be much easier if you “chunk” it, one section at a time. You can breathe much easier if you complete the assignment before school resumes. Coming into AP classes, procrastination will be your worst enemy—time management, your best friend.

**Assessment:**

Each section summary is 50 points, for a total of 200 points. Effective 45-50 points: Thorough and detailed, at least 10 terms are incorporated and identified Adequate 35-44 points: A bit thin on summary, and/or some terminology missing or not identified Inadequate 30-34 points: may or may not be complete. Too many technical/grammar errors/some terminology missing or not identified.

**Suggested/Extra Credit Assignment for *Me Talk Pretty One Day***

This assignment is not required, however it will expose you to a type of non-fiction writing you may be unfamiliar with. Reading these essays will give you a taste of the material and texts AP Language will cover and will prepare you for the type of writing you will encounter on the AP exam.

You will choose 5 essays (any 5) to read and then complete the following assignment.

Some suggested titles:

Go Carolina; Giant Dreams, Midget Abilities; Genetic Engineering; Today's Special  
City of Angels; Jesus Shaves; Remembering My Childhood on the Continent of Africa  
The City of Light in the Dark; Picka Pocketoni; I'll Eat What He's Wearing

This is a collection of autobiographical essays. Pay close attention to Sedaris' humor and how it is conveyed (via hyperbole, understatement, irony, incongruity, etc) and to how his style (specifically tone and diction) changes according to the topic and purpose.

Assignment:

1. Type a brief summary of each essay chosen (2-4 sentences).

After reading all chosen essays write a reflection on the readings as a whole. This is your reaction and brief identification of its major strengths/themes. In other words: What makes Sedaris' writing unique? What things did you notice about the way it was written? Why would the author choose to say something that way? And why do you think this work is (or at least is considered) important? (2-3 pages max, MLA format: Times New Roman 12 pt, double spaced, etc.)

2. Significant Passages

Select the most influential passages that illustrate interesting arguments in the text (one per essay read). For each passage:

1. Write the sentence (or sentences), complete with page number citation in MLA format.
2. Label the tone of this passage. How does the author use specific strategies to create this tone?