

Summer Reading
AP English 11 Language and Composition

Required: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet
by John Green

An additional autobiography is required from the attached list:

Growing Up by Russell Baker
All Over But the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg
Salvation on Sand Mountain by Dennis Covington
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard
An American Childhood by Annie Dillard
Outside the Magic Circle by Virginia Foster Durr
My Name is Mary: A Memoir by Mary Fisher
Pentimento by Lillian Hellman
A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway
The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton
The Big Sea by Langston Hughes
Dust Tracks on a Road by Zora Neale Hurston
The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston
Blood by Alison Moorer
North Toward Home by Willie Morris
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
Educated by Tara Westover
This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff
Black Boy by Richard Wright
Crying in H Mart by Michele Zauner

For each book you read, fill out the Report Sheets following this list (download, type, and print the specific set for each book—you will turn in 3 separate sets of the sheets the first day of school). Please do not copy front and back. Note that each Report Sheet asks for different information. We will use these sheets to help with class discussions, papers, and presentations. Again, type out the information required for each sheet. Please be warned: any content that resembles that from *Cliffs Notes*, *Spark Notes*, AI, or other “study aid” will receive a -0-. **Each student should do his/her own work and not collaborate with other students.**

Make sure you print and complete all the required sheets:

Just Mercy* (2 sheets) Autobiography choice (2 sheets), and *The Anthropocene Reviewed* (3 sheets). **These readings are the basis for the first 4-5 weeks of school.*

Annotation Expectations

Before you read:

First things first. Do not be afraid to mark up the text. Get those pens, pencils, and highlighters on the page.

While you read:

*Note: You should use a combination of all of the following annotating techniques. You should NOT rely on one strategy (ex. only highlighting the text).

1. Circle any words you don't know, look them up (dictionary apps are great for this), and jot in a short definition in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper.
2. Underline/highlight anything that you believe could be of importance such as revealing insight into characters, descriptions of setting, major plot points, etc.
3. Annotate (make notes) next to your underlining—why is that part important? What are your thoughts? What is the “take away”? There should never be underlining or highlighting without some sort of note by it. Use your margins!
4. “Argue” with the text—if you take issue or disagree with something that's taking place, write a critical comment in the margin that explains why.
5. Write in any **questions** you have next to things you don't understand. Place a ? or Q next to these places so that they are easy to spot.
6. Write in any **opinions** you have about characters, plot points, etc. as you read.

After you read:

Go to the last page of each chapter, and write in one question that you are left with upon finishing your reading of that chapter.

AP Language Report Sheets

Name: _____

TITLE: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

AUTHOR : Bryan Stevenson

FIRST Publication date: _____

****WARNING:** The film version of this nonfiction selection focuses on only a part of Stevenson’s story. Do not try to substitute the film for reading the book! You will miss much of his experiences with the criminal justice system.

PURPOSE: What do you consider to be the author’s purpose or purposes in his/her autobiography? If the author specifically states the purpose(s), quote the passage with page number(s).

AUDIENCE: Explain who you think the author’s audience may be.

TITLE: The title is significant. After reading the book, explain what you think the author argues about both justice and redemption. For each explanation, give concrete examples from the book and provide quoted support (with page numbers) that illustrate your point.

Justice:

1. View: _____

2. Example: _____

3. Quote: _____

Redemption:

1. View: _____

2. Example: _____

3. Quote: _____

FINAL THOUGHTS: Think back to your opinion before you began to read Stevenson's book. What, if anything, in this book surprised you? How did this book challenge your beliefs on any one of the following: 1. The criminal justice system, 2. Capital punishment, 3. Legal representation, 4. Poverty, 5. Race, 6. Mental and intellectual disabilities, 7. Women, or 8. Juvenile offenders? Again, provide specific examples to support your opinion.

AP Language Report Sheets

Name: _____

Autobiography: Choice

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

FIRST Publication date: _____

PURPOSE: What do you consider to be the author's purpose in his/her autobiography? If the author specifically states that purpose, quote the passage with page number.

AUDIENCE: Explain who you think the author's audience may be.

STYLE: Describe the author's style of writing. Consider tone, diction, selection of details, or any techniques the author uses to achieve his/her purpose. In other words, how does this work differ from others you have read? Does the author seem to write in a unique "voice"? Give examples from the text.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: List and briefly discuss 3 events/incidents the author recounts and state how those events either relate to the author's purpose or how they shape the author's character. For each one, pull a quotation (include page number) from the autobiography and explain how each one seems to be significant.

1. Event: _____

Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

2. Event: _____

Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

3. Event: _____

Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

AP Language Report Sheets

Name: _____

TITLE: *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet*

AUTHOR: John Green

Publication date: _____

First, watch the 5-minute John Green clip on what the Anthropocene is. If the link does not work, the podcasts are available on Spotify.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-word-from-john/id1342003491?i=1000423453300>

Choose **three** essays/reviews in the book that resonated with you and explain why. Please carefully consider your choices. I want to see what interests you. You can evaluate each essay's effectiveness. Support and develop your positions.

Essay #1

Essay #2

Essay # 3

Now, chose **two** different essays and focus on *how Green develops his argument*.

Essay #1

1. State his primary claim in a sentence.

2. Consider **HOW** he develops his argument. Does he use personal anecdotes? Comparison/Contrasts? Juxtaposition? Figurative Language? In other words—even if you don't know the term—examine how he develops his argument and explain **HOW** that contributes to its effectiveness.

Essay #2

1. State his primary claim in a sentence.

2. Consider HOW he develops his argument. Does he use personal anecdotes? Comparison/Contrasts? Juxtaposition? Figurative Language? In other words—even if you don't know the term—examine how he develops his argument and explain HOW that contributes to its effectiveness.

Finally, Green's reviews began as podcasts before he adapted them into a book. Choose one podcast (aim for one that is **different** from the ones you discussed above). There are about 35 podcasts, most about 20 minutes long.

Again, if the link doesn't work, try Spotify.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-anthropocene-reviewed/id1342003491>

Podcast chosen: _____ Date: _____

Compare/contrast his podcast approach to his written approach to the variety of topics.

Evaluate. Differences? Similarities? Effectiveness?
