**Summer Reading List**  
for students entering AP English Language and Composition

This July and August you are expected to read at least **TWO** books that your English AP teacher has chosen both for their own merit and for their usefulness when juxtaposed with works studied after September. The following titles have been chosen to maintain fluency, build vocabulary, and enhance your critical reading skills for success in the AP Language test.

These books will be the foundation works for your opening assignments so please be diligent in your reading. You must read *The Kite Runner*, and you may choose one of the two non-fiction pieces. Our first unit of study will focus on the narrative form, with an emphasis on analyzing the development of individuals in the novels you read, as well as considering your own personal journey. Upon return to class in September, evaluations will determine whether you have completed your summer reading assignment, and as AP prep proceeds throughout the year, you will be asked to recall your knowledge of these titles. You can find these titles at local libraries and bookstores, and you should bring these copies to the first day of class. Many of the titles are also available in electronic form. **Do not procrastinate** - get started right away.

**MANDATORY TEXT:**

**Khaled Hosseini: The Kite Runner**

Fiction

Amir is the son of a wealthy Kabul merchant, a member of the ruling caste of Pashtuns. Hassan, his servant and constant companion, is a Hazara, a despised and impoverished caste. Their uncommon bond is torn by Amir's choice to abandon his friend amidst the increasing ethnic, religious, and political tensions of the dying years of the Afghan monarchy, wrenching them far apart. But so strong is the bond between the two boys that Amir journeys back to a distant world, to try to right past wrongs against the only true friend he ever had.

**CHOICE TEXTS:**

**Paul Kalanithi: When Breath Becomes Air**

Non-Fiction

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. When Breath Becomes Air chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

**Sherman Alexie: You Don't Have To Say You Love Me**

Non-Fiction

When his mother passed away at the age of 78, Sherman Alexie responded the only way he knew how: he wrote. The result is this stunning memoir. Featuring 78 poems, 78 essays and intimate family photographs, Alexie shares raw, angry, funny, profane, tender memories of a childhood few can imagine--growing up dirt-poor on an Indian reservation, one of four children raised by alcoholic parents. Throughout, a portrait emerges of his mother as a beautiful, mercurial, abusive, intelligent, complicated woman. *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* is a powerful account of a complicated relationship, an unflinching and unforgettable remembrance.

Plot summaries retrieved from Good Reads