

AP English Eleven: Language and Composition  
Summer Reading Assignment / 2011  
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Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. An AP class is designed to train students in methods of forceful expression, logical thinking, and intelligent reading. The purpose of the summer reading is two-fold. In part it is intended to acquaint you with some of the types of texts you will use throughout the course of the school year. In addition it is to prepare you for the rigor and the quality of work that will be expected from you this year. All assignments must be typed (unless otherwise specified). You are responsible for proofreading. Points will be deducted for spelling and/or grammatical errors. Take pride in your summer work. Demonstrate that you have made the appropriate choice to be in AP English Language and Composition. Should you have any questions regarding the summer reading assignments, please email me your concerns. Careful reading and completion of these assignments will positively impact your grade. For your summer reading, you will read each of the following **two** books: *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls and *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King.

- 1- *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls.** The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching the children physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Jeannette's mother was a free spirit, who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. The Glass Castle is truly astonishing- a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.
- 2- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King.** This superb memoir offers a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported, near-fatal accident in 1999- and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery.

**Assignment # 1-** Read Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle* and write an **essay** responding to the following prompt from the 2003 AP Exam (2-typed pages, MLA

format): "Literary works often depict characters caught between colliding cultures—national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question." **Essay Directions-** Select such a character from Walls' *The Glass Castle* and write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole. Use specific examples (quotes) from the book to support your argument. Due on the day of *The Glass Castle* test (2<sup>nd</sup> week). Additionally, be prepared to take a test on this memoir during the second week we come back to school in September.

**Assignment # 2:** Read Stephen King's *On Writing*. The book is divided into five sections: "Part One," "What Writing Is," "Toolbox," "On Writing," and "On Living." For **each** section you must complete the following:

A. Write a **summary** of **each** section. Do not copy, but do include quotations to explain and illustrate your summary. Length should be 75-100 words.

B. **Vocabulary:** Include new vocabulary words. For each, write the word, the context in which it is used (place this in quotations) and an appropriate definition from the dictionary. Pay attention to context clues. I would expect *at least 10* new vocabulary words per section.

### **Assignment # 3: Rhetorical Device Term Glossary (Student Generated)**

Argument and literary analysis are important parts of the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course. To prepare for the course, there are some common terms (rhetorical devices) that all AP students should be able to identify, analyze, and use in their writing. Research and record the definitions for at least **twenty** commonly used *rhetorical devices*. Be sure to include the example of how the device is used in the sentence or speech. Additionally, locate at least **ten examples** of these devices (five plus rhetorical devices per work) in Stephen King and Jeannette Walls' summer reading assignments. Include a list of the specific rhetorical device, the sentence it was used in, and the page number you located it on in the nonfiction novel. You will have a test on these terms (specifically identifying applications of these terms) at the conclusion of the second week of class. Record the rhetorical devices and definitions in a notebook--be sure to find and study examples of the rhetorical devices. This notebook will serve as an ongoing glossary of rhetorical terms that you will use and add to throughout the school year. **YOU MAY NOT TYPE THIS PORTION OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.**

**You may find help with rhetorical devices on the following sites:**

- 1) <http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/silva.htm>
- 2) <http://www.uky.edu/AS/Classics/rhetoric.html>
- 3) <http://www.nt.armstrong.edu/terms.htm>
- 4) <http://www.haverford.edu/classics/courses/2006F/lat101a/handouts/GlossaryLiteraryRhetoricalTerms.pdf>