

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Reading 2018

K. Turse~ kturse@delranschools.org

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! In this course, you will learn how to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize a variety of nonfiction texts and construct arguments from essays, speeches, newspaper articles, magazines, e-zines, and blogs.

To start the course, you will read the memoir *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard, as well as the mandatory “Delran Reads” summer reading book that you chose on your own. You will complete the following assignment for *An American Childhood* as a means of preparation for September. This will be counted as a “project” grade for the first marking period. There is **no assignment for the mandatory “Delran Reads” summer reading book** but **there will be an assessment** the first couple of days of school based on the information.

I encourage you to annotate both texts while you read and take notes on important details. This will help you when completing the assignment, as well as serve as a refresher for any assessment you have in the beginning of the school year. The AP assignment is due **Thursday, September 6, 2018**. Be sure to either share the document with me electronically before 9/6/18 or have it with you on the first day of school!

Text:

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

Assignment: You will keep a journal, hard copy or electronic, for *An American Childhood*. If you are keeping an electronic journal, please complete the assignment on Google Docs and share it with kturse@delranschools.org. The journal must include a minimum of 8 entries. You must complete **two of each** of the following types of entries below. **Please indicate which type you are writing about at the beginning of each entry, for example, 1A, 2A, 1B, 2B, and so on.** The order is not important; you should be completing entries AS you are reading. Each entry should be 300-350 words. **Do not exceed 350 words per entry.**

- A. Say/Does --Copy a passage into the journal and summarize it in your own words (What does the passage say?). Then, analyze how the author used it and the purpose it serves (What does the passage do? Why it is important? For example: develops the character, establishes the setting, makes a connection between a and b). Be sure to write in page numbers so that you can easily return to the passage in the book.
- B. Development of a theme --Identify possible themes of the book and find passages within the text that develop the theme in some way. Explain how that theme is developed in the passage. Is it expressed in dialogue or characterization? Is it illustrated in an action committed by a character? Be sure to write in page numbers so that you can easily return to the passage in the book.
- C. Powerful/Interesting/Beautiful Writing --Identify a passage that you believe stands out in the text. You do not necessarily have to *like* the passage, but it is often easier to analyze a passage that you find valuable. Explain why you chose it. For example, the metaphors used in the passage sparked a meaningful insight, the descriptive language evoked a feeling or connection to the setting, the sentence variety provided clear movement or reinforced the action in the text, the sentence structure mirrored the talking of the character. Be sure to write in page numbers so that you can easily return to the passage in the book.
- D. Connection --Identify a theme or idea that is developed throughout the memoir and find an article or blog post that connects to that theme or idea. The article can be from a different perspective. For example, if a theme in the memoir is the importance of staying in school, you can use an article from a newspaper, magazine, or blog that discusses high school dropouts or the overcrowding of jails with young adults. You simply must be able to relate it to the text in some way. Summarize the article or blog post, provide full citation, and reflect on how it connects to the memoir.