

Dear 2017-2018 A.P. Language and Composition Students,

I look forward to working with you and diving deeper into the English Language. The A.P. English Language and Composition course will focus on rhetorical devices, in-depth literary analysis, fiction, non-fiction, grammar, A.P. Exam practice, current issues, and an abundance of writing.

Your summer reading will be *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok.

A mini-description of *The Chosen*:

“Few stories offer more warmth, wisdom, or generosity than this tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times in which they live. Though on the surface it explores religious faith--the intellectually committed as well as the passionately observant--the struggles addressed in *The Chosen* are familiar to families of all faiths and in all nations. In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rabbi), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood. The intellectual and spiritual clashes between fathers, between each son and his own father, and between the two young men, provide a unique backdrop for this exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty, and, ultimately, the power of love.” - Amazon.com

There are 2 parts to your Summer Reading Assignment.

1. Read *The Chosen* and complete the accompanying assignment.
2. Create flashcards for the attached list of important terms to know for AP Lang. Write the term on one side of the card and the definition on the other side of the card. Please use index cards that are big enough for you to add examples of each device (we will be adding these throughout the year). Please handwrite these (there is knowledge to be gained therein) as opposed to cutting and pasting/typing.

This assignment will be due no later than **Tuesday, September 5** (I will happily take it before then).

This will be a highly rigorous course, but we will have fun tackling the content together. Feel free to email me with any questions you have about the assignment. Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. McDermott
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Summer Reading Assignment - Part 1 - *The Chosen*

Your assignment: Choose **two** of the following three quotes from *The Chosen*. Write a 200 word response to the question about each of your “chosen” quotes.

1. “Whenever I do or see something I don’t understand, I like to think about it until I understand it.”
 - This quote from Danny Saunders reveals much about his character. Using examples and embedding quotes from throughout the novel, describe Danny Saunders’ thirst for knowledge and the extremes to which he will go to quench that thirst.
2. “I was a son to my father...and he taught me and said to me, ‘Let your heart hold fast my words’.”
 - This is a quote from the Book of Proverbs that is used within *The Chosen*. How does it epitomize the relationships between Danny and his father and Reuven and his father? What is different about the way the sons and fathers communicate with one another? Embed quotes from the novel to support your answer.
3. “I learned a long time ago, Reuven, that a blink of an eye is nothing. But the eye that blinks, that is something. A span of life is nothing. But the man who lives that life, he is something.”
 - The integrity with which one lives his or her life is a central theme to the novel. Explain how Reuven’s father sets an example for Reuven throughout the novel. Please use specific examples and embed quotes to support your answer.

General Instructions

Responses must be in your own words (all references to other sources, including the text, must be cited appropriately). This is an individual assignment. Your answers should **NOT** exactly match another student. Any work that is plagiarized (stealing the ideas or words of another) will result in a **ZERO** on this assignment for all students involved.

If you are considering a trip to sparknotes or another of her dastardly cousins, please think twice. Those sites rob you of a genuine educational experience. Yes, an experience that might mean struggles with understanding and perspective. Without including these potholes and speedbumps in your education, you pave a wide, easy path and then celebrate an empty victory of arriving at the finish line safely. You are old enough now for me to expect that you own your own education and take the role of being active and avoiding the embarrassing journey of apathy and passivity. If this is a habit you have and would like to continue, this may not be the best course for you.

This is your first chance to show me your best writing. There should be **no** spelling or grammatical mistakes on your paper. This is the place for formal diction (no slang—I am old and won’t understand what you are saying). This should be final-draft quality. Papers must be typed in a size 12 easy-to-read font (ex. Times New Roman). If you do not have a computer, go to a friend’s house or the public library.

Summer Reading Assignment - Part 2 - Flashcards

Directions: Create 4x6 flashcards for each of the terms and definitions listed. These terms will be utilized throughout the duration of the school year and are an important component of the AP exam. Leave enough room on each card to cite examples in the future. You must handwrite these (no cutting and pasting typed text).

1. rhetorical question: a question asked solely to produce an effect and not to elicit a reply
2. refutation: when a writer delivers relevant opposing arguments
3. allegory: a narrative in which character, action, and setting represent abstract concepts apart from the literal meaning of a story - the underlying meaning usually has a moral, social, religious, or political significance
4. metonymy: the substitution of a term naming an object closely associated with the word in mind for the word itself
5. qualifier: a statement that indicates the force of the argument
6. declarative sentence: makes a statement (sentence type)
7. interrogative sentence: asks a question (sentence type)
8. imperative sentence: gives a command (sentence type)
9. exclamatory sentence: makes an interjection (Sentence type)
10. thesis: the central claim and overall purpose of a work
11. bias: a predisposition or subjective opinion
12. anecdote: a short account of an interesting or humorous incident, intended to illustrate or support a point
13. analogy: a comparison to a directly parallel case; the process of drawing a comparison between two things based on a partial similarity of like features
14. idiom: an expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words
15. tone: the voice and attitude the writer has chosen to project
16. mood: the overall atmosphere of a work and the mood is how that atmosphere makes a reader feel
17. antithesis: a contrast in language to bring out a contrast in ideas
18. allusion: a brief reference to a person, event, or place - real or fictitious - or to a work of art
19. juxtaposition: placing two ideas side by side or close together
20. anticipating audience response: the rhetorical technique of anticipating counterarguments and offering a refutation
21. euphemism: substitutions of an inoffensive, indirect, or agreeable expression for a word or phrase perceived as socially unacceptable or harsh
22. paradox: a phrase or statement that while seeming contradictory or absurd may actually be well founded or true. Used to attract attention or to secure emphasis
23. cliché: a timeworn expression that through overuse has lost its power to evoke concrete images
24. irony: the discrepancy between appearance and reality: verbal, situational, dramatic, and Socratic
25. oxymoron: a self-contradictory combination of words

26. logos: appealing to logical reasoning and sound evidence
27. ethos: appealing to the audience's shared values
28. pathos: evoking and manipulating emotions
29. aphorism: a concise or tersely phrased statement in principle, truth, or opinion. Often found in fields like law, politics, and art
30. deductive reasoning: method of reasoning that moves from a general premise to a specific conclusion
31. inductive reasoning: method of reasoning that moves from specific evidence to a general conclusion based on this evidence
32. diction: choice of words in a work and an important element of style
33. abstract language: language describing ideas and qualities
34. concrete language: language describing observable, specific things
35. colloquialism: words characteristic to familiar conversation
36. denotation: specific, exact meaning of a word as defined
37. connotation: The emotional implications that a word may carry
38. polysyndeton: repetition of conjunctions in close succession
39. synecdoche: part is used for a whole or the whole for a part
40. satire: genre of writing used to critique or ridicule through humor or sarcasm
41. syntax: how a sentence is constructed
42. simple sentence: a complete sentence that is neither compound, nor complex. (1 subject, 1 predicate)
43. compound sentence: a sentence that contains 2 independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
44. complex sentence: an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses
45. antecedent: the word to which a pronoun refers
46. parallelism: when the arrangement of parts of a sentence is similarly phrased or constructed
47. loose sentence: when a sentence is grammatically complete before its end
48. periodic sentence: when a sentence is not grammatically complete before its end
49. anaphora: the same expression is repeated at the beginning of 2 or more consecutive lines
50. chiasmus: second half of an expression is balanced against the first, but with the parts reversed