

AP Language and Composition
Summer Fun!
2011-2012

Welcome to AP Language, the study of words and their powerful effect on readers and writers.

Part 1: *On Writing* by Stephen King (yes, that Stephen King)

Part memoir, part how-to book, this insightful exploration of language is a great way to get into the mindset of AP Language. As you read, use post-it notes to annotate the text, paying particular attention to passages you feel illustrate the **author's increasing awareness of the importance of identity and voice**. These notes will serve you well when you read *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* and when we return in September and read other memoirs.

Also, respond to the following question in no more than two typed pages: What is inside your "toolbox"? Why did you select these tools? Which is the most important to you, and why?

Part 2: **Read a great book!**

Read the novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. As you read, think about the tools that Stephen King discusses. Jot down notes about passages that intrigue you or that use language in unusual ways. When you finish the book, send me an email at mhasseplug@hpregonal.org with your overall thoughts about the writing style and the story itself.

Here is a review of *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* from Amazon: "This was the type of book that nagged at me when it wasn't in my hands until I made it through to the last page. At first I kept knitting my brows as I read, thinking, 'This is so odd. Am I liking it or not?' Foer's style of writing is so daring, innovative and dense in many places, perhaps 'weird' at a surface glance, it took me several chapters to settle in with the story. But at some point, during the many nights I stayed up way too late to read it, I stopped knitting my brows and thought, simply, 'Wow.'"

That's just one way to describe the power of this book. Don't read the rest of the reviews~they give away too much and ruin the story. AP Language is about the use and effect of language choices. Pay attention to what Foer does with words.

(cont.)

Part 3:

Over the summer, **read, copy, and print at least four editorials or commentaries / essays** (not news articles or informational features) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines; you must use at least two different sources. The essays must have an original publication date between July 1, 2011, and August 31, 2011. Find essays about issues that are important or interesting to you.

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

The Globe and Mail (Canadian newspaper)

The National Post (Canadian newspaper)

The New York Times (US newspaper)

The Washington Post (US newspaper)

The Times of London (UK newspaper)

The Daily Telegraph (UK newspaper)

Maclean's (Canadian news magazine)

The Economist (UK news magazine)

Time (US news magazine)

Newsweek (US news magazine)

The New Republic (US political magazine)

National Review (US political magazine)

The New Yorker (US ideas magazine)

Atlantic Monthly (US ideas magazine)

Harper's (US ideas magazine)

Mother Jones (US ideas magazine)

The Walrus (Canadian ideas magazine)

This (Canadian ideas magazine)

Salon.com (online ideas magazine)

Slate.com (online ideas magazine)

Use *Arts and Letters Daily* (www.aldaily.com) as a resource for essays from around the English-speaking world. Check the credibility of the sites before using.

Examples of newspapers/magazines that are **not** recommended:

The New York Post (newspaper)

The Toronto Sun (newspaper)

USA Today (newspaper)

fashion, lifestyle, or popular culture/entertainment magazines

Then, in four separate typed responses of no more than two pages each, comment on the aspects of the editorials that made you think. Your responses should be thoughtful and specific.

(cont.)

Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:

- Do you agree or disagree with the editorial's viewpoints? Why?
- Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
- What are some of the author's best arguments? What makes them good?
- Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
- How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
- What effective language choices does this writer use to engage the reader?
- Anything else this editorial makes you think about...

Be sure to include the MLA citation for each source at the end of your commentary. Use noodletools. If you don't already have an account, create one; you will use the site frequently. Your responses and copies of the essays/editorials will be collected the first day of school.

Enjoy. Read the above works and as much non-fiction as you can this summer. If you have any questions over the summer, email me at mhasseplug@hpregonal.org or mhasseplug@gmail.com. I look forward to a great year!