

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
AP English Language and Composition
Suggested Summer Reading List 2020-2021

Due to the COVID-19 Shutdown, the AP English Language Summer Reading assignment has been suspended. However, we strongly suggest that you read a selection of diverse nonfiction texts to prepare for the course and expand your general knowledge.

For news articles, consider reading from a variety of categories, including:

- Current Events
- Politics
- Science and Technology
- Environment
- Sports
- Psychology
- Economics
- Etc.

For full length texts, below is a categorized list of nonfiction (both memoir and informational texts) that we have offered in the past. If you'd like to choose more than one book, it is suggested that you read a memoir and its paired informational book.

For questions, please contact Colleen Burns at colleen.burns@fayette.kyschools.us

Environment

Memoir	Nonfiction
<i>No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process</i> by Colin Beavan <i>Unbowed: A Memoir</i> by Wangari Muta Maathai	<i>The Hot Topic: What We can do About Global Warming</i> by Gabrielle Walker and Sir David King <i>Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines</i> by Paul Fleischman

Business/Economics

Memoir	Nonfiction
<i>Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich <i>Pour Your Heart Into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup At a Time</i> by Howard Shultz <i>Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went From Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur</i> by Ryan Blair	<i>The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are doing Wrong to get Ahead</i> by David Callahan <i>The Bullie\$ of Wall St: This is How Greed Messed Up Our Economy</i> by former FDIC chairman, Sheila Bair <i>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything</i> by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Technology

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost): A Memoir</i> by Felicia Day</p> <p><i>Hacker Cracker: A Journey from the Mean Streets of Brooklyn to the Frontiers of Cyberspace</i> by Ejovi Nuwere</p>	<p><i>Infinite Reality: Avatars, Eternal Life, New Worlds, and the Dawn of the Virtual Revolution</i> by Jim Blascovich and Jeremy Bailenson</p> <p><i>Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral</i> by Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D., and Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D.</p>

Crime/Justice/Gangs

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>Teasing Secrets from the Dead: My Investigations at America's Most Infamous Crime Scenes</i> by Emily Craig</p>	<p><i>The C.S.I. Effect</i> by Katherine Ramsland</p>
<p><i>Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Deathhouse Chaplain</i> by Rev. Caroll Picket</p>	<p><i>The Death Penalty on Trial: Crisis in American Justice</i> by Bill Kurtis</p>
<p><i>Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.</i> by Luis J. Rodriguez</p> <p><i>Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets</i> by Sudhir Venkatesh</p>	<p><i>The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang</i> by Natalie Y. Moore and Lance Williams</p>

Family Studies

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>The Liars' Club: A Memoir</i> by Mary Karr</p> <p><i>A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius</i> by Dave Eggers</p> <p><i>Fire Shut Up in My Bones</i> by Charles M. Blow</p>	<p><i>Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Kids Roots and Wings</i> by Kenneth R. Ginsburg</p> <p><i>Trauma and Memory: Brain and Body in a Search for the Living Past</i> by Peter A. Levine and Besser A. Van Der Kolk</p>

Gender Studies/Media

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls are not for Sale, an Activist Finds her Calling and Heals Herself</i> by Rachel Lloyd</p>	<p><i>The Triple Bind: Saving our Teenage Girls from Today's Pressures</i> by Stephen Hinshaw with Rachel Kranz</p>

<p><i>Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek</i> by Maya Van Wagenen</p> <p><i>Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood</i> by Carlos Andres Gomez</p>	<p><i>American Girls: Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers</i> by Nancy Jo Sales</p> <p><i>Toxic Geek Masculinity in Media: Sexism, Trolling, and Identity Policing</i> by Anastasia Salter and Bridget Blodgett</p>
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LBGTQ+

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family</i> by Garrard Conley</p> <p><i>Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition</i> by Katie Rain Hill</p>	<p><i>Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People</i> by Mogul, Ritchie, and Whitlock</p> <p><i>LBGT Youth in America's Schools</i> by Jason Cianciotto and Sean Cahill</p>

Food

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p><i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life</i> by Barbara Kingsolver</p>	<p><i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i> by Eric Schlosser</p> <p><i>The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats</i> by Daniel Stone</p>

Psychology

Memoir	Nonfiction
<p>Substance Abuse <i>How to Stop Time: Heroin from A to Z</i> by Ann Marlowe</p>	<p>Substance Abuse <i>Addiction Is the Symptom: Heal the Cause and Prevent Relapse with 12 Steps That Really Work</i> by Rosemary Ellsworth Brown and Laura MacKay</p>
<p>Mental Health <i>Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain</i> by Portia de Rossi</p> <p><i>Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant</i> by Daniel Tammet</p>	<p>Mental Health <i>No One Cares About Crazy People: The Chaos and Heartbreak of Mental Health in America</i> by Ron Powers</p>

Science/Math

Memoir	Nonfiction
<i>My Brief History</i> by Stephen Hawking	<i>Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation, and Time Travel</i> by Michio Kaku
<i>Lab Girl</i> by Hope Jahren	<i>A Lab of One's Own: Science and Suffrage in the First World War</i> by Patricia Fara

Culture/Immigration/Racism

Memoir	Nonfiction
<i>The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother</i> by James McBride	<i>Racist America: Roots, Current Realities, and Future Reparations</i> by Joe R. Feagin <i>Chokehold: Policing Black Men</i> by Paul Butler
<i>The Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned Girls, their Journey to America and the Search for a Missing Past</i> by Karin Evans <i>Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran</i> by Roxana Saberi	<i>The Girl at the Baggage Claim: Explaining the East-West Culture Gap (Vintage Contemporaries)</i> by Gish Jen
<i>Gringo: Coming-of-Age in Latin America</i> by Chesa Boudin <i>Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League</i> by Dan-el Padilla Peralta	<i>Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants</i> by David Bacon <i>Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal</i> by Aviva Chomsky
<i>Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books</i> by Azar Nafisi	<i>All Things Censored</i> by Mumia Abu-Jamal