Summer Reading Assignment: AP Language and Composition 2019-20 school year

Instructor: Mrs. Andrea Vendittelli

The goal of this year’s summer reading assignment is to help students learn more about their world and to read something that speaks to them. Students will have two components to their summer reading assignment:

1. **New York Times Summer Reading Contest 2019**

Students will participate in the *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest. Register using your school-issued email address, rhssaddles.net. (If you are new to Regina, skip this step.) The contest runs from June 14th-August 23rd. Each week you are required to read an article or editorial or analyze a political cartoon, video, or picture of their choosing from a curated list for high school students found on the competition website under a new weekly updated link; this weekly list is free for those registered for the competition. You are NOT required to pay for a subscription to the *New York Times*.

They will then go to the competition comment section for that week, and compose an answer to the weekly question: “What interested you most in *The Times* this week? Why?” Students are expected to write comments that are 250-300 words in length. In total, students will read 8 assignments and complete 8 comments for the *New York Times*.

The *New York Times* staff will select student comments to publish online each week of the competition. Two students were featured from AP Language last summer!

Try to read a variety of opinions and sides on these stories/pieces. Why? AP Language requires knowledge of the world around you and of the way our “news” is reported.

Students will print out their 8 articles and the accompanying comments posted and bring them in a folder to the first day of school. Students will have a culminating activity using their articles. A copy of the *New York Times* instructions is enclosed.

2. **Non-Fiction of Choice**

Students will read a non-fiction selection of their choice. Students must read their selection by the first day of school. Be ready to schedule your discussion of your selection within the first week of class. You will need to have the book you read in class to complete this assignment. *I highly recommend students take notes in the margins of the book or on post-it notes to help them complete this discussion in the beginning of the year. Simply, have a conversation with the text.*

**General Non-Fiction** by Malcolm Gladwell: *Outliners: The Story of Success; David and Goliath; The Tipping Point: How Little Things Make a Big Difference.*

**Biography**
*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsui Houston.
*I am Scout: A Biography of Harper Lee* by Charles J. Shields
*Chanel and Her World: Friends, Fashion, and Fame* by Edmonde Charles-Roux
*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

**Memoir**
*Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
Environment/ Health Issues

*Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser

*The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat* by Michael Pollan

*Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Spice, Magic, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos

Science/Medicine

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

*Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander

*The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy & his Backyard Nuclear Reactor* by Ken Silverstein

*Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African-American Women who Helped Launch Our Nation Into Space* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Historical Accounts

*Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson

*Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

*Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town* by Warren St. John

*Columbine* by Dave Cullen

*Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown

True Crime

*Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders* by Vincent Bugliosi

*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

*Catch Me if you Can* by Frank Abagnale and Stan Redding

### 3. Thank you for Arguing by Jay Heinrichs

Students will read chapters 1-14 in Jay Heinrichs’ book, *Thank you for Arguing* the 3rd edition. There will be a test over the reading the first week of school. I will refer to the material in this book throughout the school year as it lays a foundation for this course. I highly suggest you take notes or complete outlines to help you study. Pay particular attention to bold or italicized words and extra information found in boxes.