

## **AP Language and Composition Summer Reading:**

Summer Reading is Optional but Recommended.

A lack of reading experience with complex text is the major obstacle for struggling AP students. I can help you learn to write more effectively and teach you some strategies for test taking, but I cannot make up for a lack of experience with complex reading. However, you can at least make yourself a little more familiar with sophisticated writing before you get here. Below I have explained some possibilities for your summer reading, but I will not be collecting any responses or quizzing you on anything in the fall.

### **Non-Fiction:**

- A few specific landmark speeches that you might want to read.
  - Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
  - Elizabeth Cady Stanton's address to the Seneca Falls Women's convention
  - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" or "I Have Seen the Mountaintop" speech.
- An interesting web sites with influential speeches throughout history:
  - [www.greatamericandocuments.com](http://www.greatamericandocuments.com) (easy to navigate but a little limited)
  - [www.americanrhetoric.com](http://www.americanrhetoric.com) (difficult to navigate but a lot of great speeches)
- In addition, reading the editorials in a newspaper or reading articles in print or online news magazines will prepare you somewhat for the type of reading material in the course.

### **Supplemental Literature:**

We will read some literature during the year but almost exclusively outside the class with assessments periodically. If you think you will be too busy during the terms to read at home, feel free to pre-read each of the titles below. During the term, you would just need to review the novels prior to assessments.

**Fall:** *The Great Gatsby*

**Spring:** *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Catcher in the Rye*