

AP Language & Composition (with American Literature emphasis)

AP Language is taught in combination with American literature at Kell High School. The primary focus of this course will be to take you through college-level course work and thinking in accordance with AP course requirements and in preparation for the AP exam in May. This course will achieve these goals in addition to fulfilling the American literature graduation requirement through study of classic American texts and many short and longer non-fiction pieces. The summer reading assignments below have been chosen with these goals in mind.

Read the texts and complete the accompanying assignments as directed. **This work is due by Friday, August 9, 2019.**

(You will receive extra credit if you turn in the assignment on or before Friday, August 2nd).

Book 1: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

Have you ever wondered: "Did the author mean to do that?" King's book, which is subtitled *A Memoir of the Craft*, provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, "What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done" (King xv). In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) The book is divided into four sections: *C.V.*, *Toolbox*, *On Writing*, and *On Living: A Postscript*. Your assignments will, likewise, be divided into four sections. **You should organize the four assignments into one complete document.** For each task below, please include proper MLA documentation and citation for the passages discussed. **These must be typed.**

Task # 1: C.V.

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e., imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces. **Identify three passages (1 sentence to a paragraph in length)** in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. **Explain the elements/techniques** he uses in each passage and why they are effective. *This should result in three well-constructed, coherent paragraphs.*

Task # 2: Toolbox

Create a writer's toolbox for yourself. Identify **7 rules of writing** that King discusses (include the page number), which you think are important or interesting. Then, add an **additional 7 rules of writing** which you have either practiced or been taught throughout your school career. Example: Don't begin a sentence with "and." In class, we will discuss the merit of these various "rules." You might want to investigate some of the sources provided in the text to help you find some additional "rules." *This can be in a list format.*

Task # 3: On Writing

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose **three key passages (1 sentence to a paragraph in length) from this section in which King defines writing**, either directly or figuratively. In your own words, restate King's point about writing in the passage and why you think this point is interesting or important. *This should result in three well-constructed, coherent paragraphs.*

Task # 4: On Living: A Postscript

This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, **explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person.** Would you consider reading one of his books now, for example? (If you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) **What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book?** Support your answers to both prompts with evidence from the text. *This should be a well-constructed, coherent paragraphs.*

Book Two: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Considered one of the greatest American novels, this book will serve as our nucleus to our American literary studies focus at the start of the semester, and it will serve as an introduction to the power of language. It is imperative that you READ the book; do not simply watch the film adaptation. As you read pay close attention to **character and setting development**, as well as **motifs, symbols, and themes** (practice your annotation skills!). You will be asked to work closely with the novel and ultimately be assessed on your understanding of it.