



Austin High School
Incoming 9th Grade Pre-AP English I for 2018-2019
Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Pre-AP English I at Austin High School!

We believe the key to being a great reader is to read extensively, and the key to being a great writer is exposure to great writing. Reading is not something that we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Summer provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and analyzing writing in class.

What is the summer reading assignment?

From the list on the back, choose ONE nonfiction book. Complete the significant moments assignment (see below).

When is the reading assignment due?

You *MUST* finish reading the book in the summer and submit significant moments on the first day of school.

You will have a reading quiz in the first week, and we will continue to work with the book and assignment throughout the first six weeks.

What should I do while I read?

While you are reading, you will need to choose **six significant moments** that occur throughout the book. From these six moments, you will work more specifically with one throughout the six weeks.

To mark the book and take notes on the *significant events*, ask yourself:

- Why is the specific event important?
- How does the event impact the individual(s) involved?
- What do you as the reader learn from the event about yourself, about life, and/or about human nature?

It may be best to chart your moments as seen here (using *I Am Malala* as an example):

<u>Page #</u>	<u>Quoted Moment</u>	<u>Why It is Significant? (5 sentences minimum)</u>
Page 25	"...the <i>wali</i> gave up power and we became part of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, which a few years ago changed its name to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."	This change in power created the foundation for Malala and her family to live in Pakistan. She was able to live the life she loved that would later contrast with the harsh conditions that overran her community. There were many cultural aspects that contributed to Malala's evolution, but the change in power either created or stunted that growth. Malala learned to be strong and to advocate for others here. After her journey, she returned to mentor and help others.

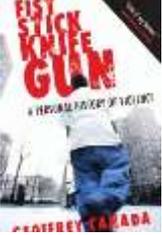
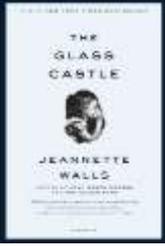
What if I have questions?

If you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to contact one of these 9th grade teachers for assistance. One of these teachers may not be your teacher next year, but she/he will be able to help you with questions about the assignment.

- Ms. Ault at kerri.ault@austinisd.org**
Mrs. Nuñez at anita.nunez@austinisd.org
Mr. Miller at ralph.miller@austinisd.org

Pre-AP English I Summer Reading Book Choices

We encourage students and parents to carefully choose ONE book to read from the list below. All of these books are true stories recounting significant events and obstacles in the life of the main character. Some of the books contain adult language and content. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like guidance in choosing a title. Our preference is that you use a hard copy of the text for classroom use. No electronic readers, please.

	<p><i>Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence</i> by Geoffrey Canada</p> <p>From Barnes & Noble: “Long before the avalanche of praise for his work [...]and documentaries like <i>Waiting for Superman</i>, Geoffrey Canada was a small boy growing up scared on the mean streets of the South Bronx. His childhood world was one where “sidewalk boys” learned the codes of the block and were ranked through the rituals of fist, stick, and knife. Then the streets changed, and the stakes got even higher. In his candid and riveting memoir, Canada relives a childhood in which violence stalked every street corner.”</p>
	<p><i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls</p> <p>From Barnes & Noble: “A remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette’s brilliant and charismatic father captured his children’s imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn’t want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.”</p>
	<p><i>A Long Way Home</i> by Saroo Brierley</p> <p>From Barnes & Noble: “At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read or write or recall the name of his hometown or even his own last name, he survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. Despite his gratitude, Brierley always wondered about his origins. Eventually, with the advent of Google Earth, he had the opportunity to look for the needle in a haystack he once called home, and pore over satellite images for landmarks he might recognize or mathematical equations that might further narrow down the labyrinthine map of India. One day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for and set off to find his family.”</p>
	<p><i>My Beloved World</i> by Sonia Sotomayor</p> <p>From Barnes & Noble: “The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.”</p>