

**Downingtown Area School District**  
**Summer Reading 2021**  
**AP Language and Literature**

The following books are available in libraries and bookstores; however, we strongly recommend you purchase these books if at all possible so that you can highlight passages and make marginal notes.

**Part I: For ON WRITING: A MEMOIR of the CRAFT by Stephen King**

*\*\*Parental Warning: Graphic Language*

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.” 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 three sections. For each assignment below, please include the page numbers for the passages discussed.

**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 in which King uses such elements/ techniques effectively. Explain the elements/techniques he uses and why they are effective. You should choose three different literary elements; this writing assignment may be five 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.” This assignment can be completed with two bulleted or numbered lists.

**Task # 3: On Writing**

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose two key passages from this section in which King defines writing. Choose one passage where he defines writing directly and one where he defines it 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 assignment can be completed by providing the two passages selected and writing two **very** well developed paragraphs that analyze each selected passage.

## **Part II: The New Kings of Nonfiction by Ira Glass**

As you read, take notes and observations on the essays within the collection. You should annotate and react to the text in order to prepare yourself for an in-class timed writing that will occur during the first week of school. When annotating the text, either through post-its or typed annotations, consider elements of author, audience, purpose, and stylistic merit.

Following are a list of the selected readings and links to each.

Jonathan Lebed's Extracurricular Activities

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/02/25/magazine/jonathan-lebed-s-extracurricularactivities.html?pagewanted=all>

Six Degrees of Lois Weisberg

<http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~chazelle/courses/BIB/gladwell.pdf>

The American Man, Age Ten

<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/scotty.moore/anth2351/anth-2301-summer-readings/the-american-male-at-age-10>

Among the Thugs

<https://manoff703.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/bill-buford-among-the-thugs.pdf>

Crazy Things Seem Normal, Normal Things Seem Crazy

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxqbHMxMDZpbmRyY3RvZG9jc3R1ZGlhc3xneDo3ODEoMzc1ZDE4YWUoMGE4>

Host

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2005/04/host/303812/>

Tales of the Tyrant

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/05/tales-of-the-tyrant/302480/>

Losing the War

<http://www.leesandlin.com/articles/LosingTheWar.htm>

The Hostess Diaries

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/11/style/the-hostess-diaries-my-year-at-a-hot-spot.html?r=0> Power Steer <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/31/magazine/power-steer.html>



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