

## **Summer Reading Assignment: AP English Language and Composition, 2025**

For questions, contact Mr. Jonathan Herrera ([herreraj@leonschools.net](mailto:herreraj@leonschools.net))

*Per School Board Policy 2240, Leon County Schools recognizes that certain instructional materials may conflict with a student's or parent's value system. In such cases, a parent may request in writing an alternative summer reading assignment. Please direct inquiries to Jonathan Herrera ([herreraj@leonschools.net](mailto:herreraj@leonschools.net)).*

Our class is a deep and thoughtful study of nonfiction—its various uses in our culture, the tools of its construction, and approaches to crafting it skillfully. So your summer reading this year is not a novel, but a collection of nonfiction pieces. We hope you'll find some surprises and some delights as you take the opportunity to study each piece in depth.

Get a copy<sup>1</sup> of *The Best American Essays of the Century*, edited by Joyce Carol Oates. Read the Introduction by Oates that begins on page xvii and consider her points about essays. Then choose **one** of the following sets of essays to read.<sup>2</sup> (Dates in parentheses are provided to help you locate each essay within the anthology, which is organized chronologically.)

### **List A**

- "Once More to the Lake" by E.B. White (1941)
- "The Way to Rainy Mountain" by N. Scott Momaday (1967)
- "Women and Honor: Some Notes on Lying" by Adrienne Rich (1977)
- "Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood" by Richard Rodriguez (1980)

### **List B**

- "Pamplona in July" by Ernest Hemingway (1923)
- "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" by Zora Neale Hurston (1928)
- "A Drugstore in Winter" by Cynthia Ozick (1982)
- "Graven Images" by Saul Bellow (1997)

### **Assignment**

You will submit your work electronically to Canvas during the first week of school, so type up and save all of your work as a single file. All answers should be in complete, well-crafted sentences and/or paragraphs, and your answers *must* reflect a sophisticated and academic reading of each essay. Textual evidence will really help. Label your answers with the title of each essay.

For each essay you read, answer the following:

1. What is the implied argument or central message of the essay? This will have to be inferred from a careful reading of the essay!
2. How would you describe the author's tone, style, or voice? Give two quotes that demonstrate your description and explain how those quotes enhance or further the author's message.

This assignment will serve as a basis for your instructor's understanding of your writing abilities at the start of the year and will be used as a diagnostic assessment; as such, it is in your best interest to try your best and to provide consistently thoughtful analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> To reduce cost, you can get an electronic copy, a used copy, etc. Additionally, there are often extra copies in Mr. Herrera's classroom (204). Stop by before the end of the school year to see if there are extra copies available.

<sup>2</sup> We will be referring to these essays and other essays in the anthology throughout the school year. Neither list is "better" or "preferable," and the two lists cover equal amounts of text. Choose based on your own interests.