

Overview

Incoming AICE Language students are required to read several books over the summer in preparation for the course and subsequent AICE exam. One portion of this exam, *Passages for Comment*, will require that you analyze and evaluate the language use and style of an author. Therefore, while reading your novels, make sure to *pay close attention to how the authors interest you with their diction* (word choice). The goal of this summer's reading, however, is not to directly prepare you for your exam, but to initiate you into a conversation about language use in both classic and contemporary fiction.

AICE Language *is* college; it is not preparation for college. If you are looking for ways around completing your summer reading assignment, you should not enroll in this class. Students who do not complete the summer reading—all of it, as spelled out by these guidelines—will not be eligible to take this course. Online summaries, such as *SparkNotes*, will not be sufficient to complete your summer reading assignment. If you have any questions, write to me at jonathan.hampton@marion.k12.fl.us or see my website for more information: <http://jhampton.pbworks.com>.

Requirements

1. Choose one (1) pair of novels from the following list.
2. Read the chosen novels. While reading, take notes and annotate (see back of this form for help on annotating) to help you do well on the in-class essay. These notes are for *you*: I will not collect or grade them.
3. Write an in-class essay on these books after we have reviewed over our first unit of the year, "Language Use and Style." This will be approximately 3 weeks into the first semester.

Titles

The following pairs of books comprise a conversation that should take place between you, the authors, and their characters. To help you select your pair of novels, I have listed a common "theme" and essential question that holds them together; simply choose the theme or question that interests you the most. You do not need to read your pair of novels in any particular order. If bookstore prices are too much, check out the used section at Amazon.com—many of these books cost less than \$1 to own a personal copy.

Theme / Essential Question	Pair of Novels
THE GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME: BASEBALL "What makes a sport magical?"	1. <i>Shoeless Joe</i> , Kinsella * + 2. <i>The Natural</i> , Malamud +
GROWING UP "How keep true to ourselves while we grow up?"	1. <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> , Smith 2. <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Lee * +
THE FUTURE "What will our future be like?"	1. <i>1984</i> , Orwell * 2. <i>Alas, Babylon</i> , Frank *
DECISIONS "What kinds of decisions will affect the rest of my life?"	1. <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> , Mortenson 2. <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> , Golden * +
PREJUDICE & RACISM "Why do we fear people who are different?"	1. <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Twain * + 2. <i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> , Guterson +

*Is available for checkout at North Marion High School

+ Has a movie adaptation that Hampton recommends watching. Please be warned that these adaptations never align 100% with what occurs in the novel, so use film wisely. Also, as a special note for *Shoeless Joe*, the film version is called *Field of Dreams*.

What Is Annotating?

Annotating your novels allows a deeper initial reading and an understanding of the text that lasts. In your annotations, you can deliberately engage the author in conversation, ask questions, argue a point, pay a compliment, or clarify an important issue—much like having a teacher or storyteller with you in the room. If and when you come back to the book, that initial exchange is recorded for you, making an excellent and entirely personal study tool.

How to Annotate

You will need a highlighter, pencil, and a copy of your own text in which to mark. If you do not own a copy of the novel, add Post-It / Sticky notes to your list of supplies needed. Remember, while annotating pay close attention to the language of the author—words, phrases, etc—and their effects on the text.

1. A yellow highlighter allows you to mark exactly what you are interested in. Equally important, the yellow line emphasizes without interfering. While you read, highlight whatever seems to be key information. At first, you will probably highlight too little or too much; with experience, you will choose more effectively which material to highlight.
2. A pencil is better than a pen because you can make changes. Even geniuses make mistakes, temporary comments, and incomplete notes. While you read, use marginalia—notes in the margin—to mark key material. Marginalia can include check marks, question marks, stars, arrows, brackets, and written words and phrases. If you are familiar with *text coding*, then use that system. If not, please check my website and click on the [Text Coding](#) presentation link.
3. Inside the front cover of your book, keep an orderly, legible list of "key information" with page references. Key information in a novel might include themes, passages that relate to the book's title, characters' names, important quotes, scenes, passages, chapters, and maybe key definitions or vocabulary. Remember that key information will vary according to genre and the reader's purpose, so make your own good plan for reading.
4. Sticky notes are a great tool to use if you do not own your copy of the novel. Simply use your highlighter and pencil on the sticky notes and place these notes on the pages you are annotating. It's helpful to put chapter references or page numbers on your sticky notes in case they lose their stickiness and fall out.

