

# WLPCS SUMMER READING

Upper School – Summer 2019

## Using the reading list

On the next pages, look up the class you are going to take next year for specific instructions on your required summer reading.

Summer reading in the Upper School varies by the course students will enter in the fall but consists of up to three main types of reading.

- 1. Core texts** – Texts that are required of all students taking the course and will serve as the cornerstone text for the first unit of the school year, as well as connecting to the year-long essential questions of the course. Students must read all required texts for their course and should annotate their reading.
- 2. Companion texts** – Companion texts connect with the year-long essential questions of each English course. Students must choose one of these books from the provided short list, and should be prepared to discuss the reading in detail so they should take notes or annotate.
- 3. Free choice reading** – It is important that students also read about their own interests and explore books they enjoy outside of those required. Students may choose any book that interests them for free choice reading and should be prepared to discuss what they chose to read.

Questions? Ask Ms. Hamm  
([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)).



Book by Horia Varlan

## Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that drive English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.















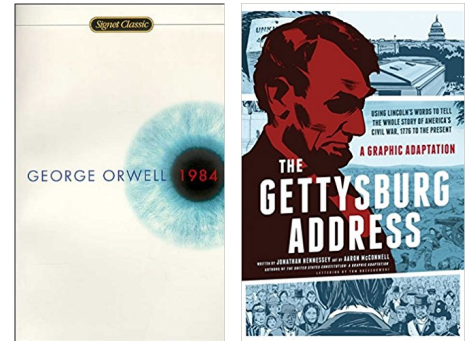




# AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

**1984 by George Orwell** – Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...



**The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey** – Using Lincoln's words as a keystone, and drawing from first-person accounts, *The Gettysburg Address* shows us the events through the eyes of those who lived through the events of the War, from soldiers to slaves.

**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.**

**We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** -- "Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author's exploration of what it means to be a woman now--and an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists."

**The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way by Bill Bryson** -- "With dazzling wit and astonishing insight, Bill Bryson--the acclaimed author of *The Lost Continent*--brilliantly explores the remarkable history, eccentricities, resilience and sheer fun of the English language.

**How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie** -- "Dale Carnegie's rock-solid, time-tested advice has carried countless people up the ladder of success in their business and personal lives."

**The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion** -- "Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage--and a life, in good times and bad--that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child."

**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass** -- "Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people.

**Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard** -- "*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* is the story of a dramatic year in Virginia's Roanoke Valley. Annie Dillard sets out to see what she can see. What she sees are astonishing incidents of "beauty tangled in a rapture with violence."

**Thirteen Days by Robert F. Kennedy** -- "During the thirteen days in October 1962 when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its installation of missiles in Cuba, few people shared the behind-the-scenes story as it is told here by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. "

**Bird By Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott** -- "'Thirty years ago my older brother, who was ten years old at the time, was trying to get a report on birds written that he'd had three months to write. It was due the next day. We were out at our family cabin in Bolinas, and he was at the

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(+) Students may read any book of the series.

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kitchen table close to tears, surrounded by binder paper and pencils and unopened books on birds, immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then my father sat down beside him, put his arm around my brother's shoulder, and said, 'Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird.'

**Lies My Teacher Told Me by James Loewen** – "After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, [the author] has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past."

**Studs Terkel's Working: A Graphic Adaptation by Harvey Pekar** – "A masterpiece of words, *Working* is now adapted into comic-book form by Harvey Pekar, the blue-collar antihero of his American Book Award-winning comics series *American Splendor*. Brilliantly scripting and arranging Terkel's interviews, Pekar collaborates with established comics veterans and some of the comic underground's brightest new talent, selected by editor Paul Buhle. Readers will find a visual palette of influences from Mexican, African American, superhero, and feminist art, each piece an electric melding of artist and subject."

**The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan** – "What should we have for dinner? Ten years ago, Michael Pollan confronted us with this seemingly simple question and, with *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, his brilliant and eye-opening exploration of our food choices, demonstrated that how we answer it today may determine not only our health but our survival as a species."

**Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach** – "Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year?"

**Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History by William Safire** – "Covering speeches from Demosthenes to George W. Bush, this latest edition includes the words of Cromwell to the 'Rump Parliament,' Orson Welles eulogizing Darryl F. Zanuck, General George Patton exhorting his troops before D-Day, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaking on Bush v. Gore. A new section incorporates speeches that were never delivered: what Kennedy was scheduled to say in Dallas; what Safire wrote for Nixon if the first moon landing met with disaster; and what Clinton originally planned to say after his grand jury testimony."

**Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff** – "Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong reasons. Her supple personality and the drama of her circumstances have been lost. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order."

**Walden by Henry David Thoreau** – "*Walden* by noted transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and manual for self-reliance."

**The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson** – "In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life."

**The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley** – "In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time."

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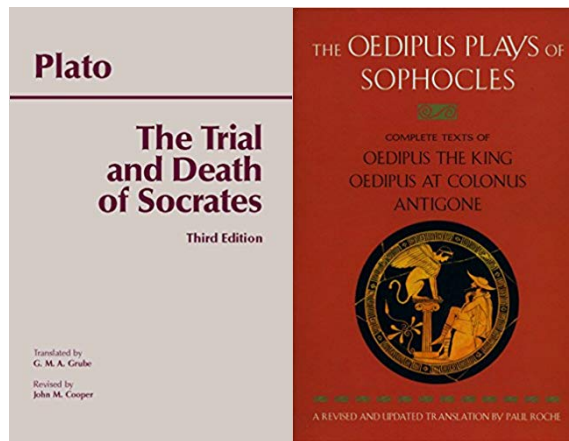
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# HONORS HUMANITIES

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

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**Plato's "Apology" from *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, 3rd edition. Translated by Grube, edited by Cooper** – This Socratic dialogue offers the defense of Socrates at his trial for corrupting young people and not worshipping the gods of Athens.

**"Oedipus Tyrannus" by Sophocles. From *The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles*. Translated by Roche** – "In vivid, poetic language, [this translation of the classic play] presents the timeless story of [a king] moving toward catastrophe, dragged down from wealth and power by pride, cursed with incest, suicide, and murder."

## **Free Choice Reading — Choose TWO more books to read this summer.**

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You must also read two books that you choose (yes, any book you choose -- no need to get approval from your teacher!) and be prepared to discuss them with your teacher and class. If you are stuck in choosing a book, go to the [YALSA Book Finder](#) or email Ms. Hamm ([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.

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