



AP Language Treasure Chest

This assignment is designed to help yourself by giving yourself powerful information for the AP Language and Composition test. The goal of this treasure chest is to give you a better chance at nailing the three essay questions. Let's be clear: there is no guarantee that anything in your treasure chest will be actually useful for the essay questions, because we really don't know what those questions will look like this year. However, we can give ourselves a fighting chance by arming ourselves with knowledge!

Your AP Lang Treasure Chest will fulfill the following requirements:

- A cover/title page with your name and class period (you can get creative with this if you'd like)
- All information will be in MLA format (minus your heading – you should include a header though on each page)
- All information you gather will be in a binder, in order according to the following categories, separated by dividers (NEAT Post-Its or cover pages will suffice, though dividers are preferred)
- Each activity should end up being at MINIMUM a page in length

Your treasure chest is due March 20th, 2020 – 160 POINTS

1. READING

-Book Notes and One-Pager on one AP-worthy book (40 pts)

There is an attached approved AP reading list I created for you-- go there first. If you have another book in mind, **CHECK WITH ME BEFORE GETTING STARTED**. Must be a work of meritorious fiction or non-fiction. **After reading the book, create a one-page doc answering the following questions:**

1. Author's Times: When and where did he/she live? At what point in his/her career was this book written? How was it received publically and critically? What was going on in the world that may have affected this composition?
2. Form, Structure and Plot: How is the book organized? Are there flashbacks, dream sequences, stream of consciousness, foreshadowing? Is the story told in strict chronological order? Compare/contrast the first/last chapters.
3. Point of View: First person memoir? Third person narrator...omniscient or limited? Does the point of view change? Is the story told in past or present tense? How do the answers to these questions affect the narrative? Why might it be told from this point of view? How does it affect the readers' experience?
4. Setting: Where and when does the story take place?
5. Characters: Choose 3 or 4 main characters and describe them. What are their motivations? What are their personalities? Goals?
6. Language: Consider diction, syntax, possible imagery or symbolism, irony, and tone. I want an overview of the author's style in this book. Give me specific examples.
7. Theme: What is/are the underlying idea(s) of the book? To put it another way, what does the author want you to think about his subject?
8. Significance of the title

2. ENTERTAINMENT (20 pts)

-Notes from visits to one museum

You *should* get to one terrestrial museum like The Huntington Library, the Claremont Museum of Art, the Pomona College Museum of Art, etc. You may include natural history museums; you may visit great museums such as the Louvre and the National Portrait gallery online (though, as I stated, in person is preferable because this is supposed to be an experience). Your "notes" should include a brief description of the museum's holdings and strengths (i.e what is this museum's speciality? What unique items do they have? What is their overall goal?), and detailed descriptions of at least TWO paintings or objects, and the ideas they aroused in you. What do these pieces make

you think, feel, connect to bigger ideas? You may want to include pictures or a brochure to show what you saw that day. You may want to look at your local city as well, sometimes there are small museums that you may want to go to.

-Notes on a play or a concert.

Live is best (like at Damien or St. Lucy's; you can also check local colleges as they often have performances there too); DVD, YouTube, or elsewhere online is okay. There are many, many plays available online for viewing. While you are at/viewing the event, remember that you are trawling for big ideas: What is the theme of the play? Is it relevant to today's world? What ideas are expressed by the music and/or the artists?

3. HISTORY (20 pts)

-Your choice of TWO events in history:

I want dates and a brief description of event. Tell me why you chose it, but most importantly, what "big ideas" or conversation topics you can connect with each. Why is this an important event? What is the context? What changes came from this event? Why do you feel a connection to this event? About a page for each event. Don't just go with war – there are many other important historical events.

4. UNIVERSAL TRUTH OR IDEA (20 pts)

-TWO well-examined deep thoughts, favorite quotations, or universal truths and your opinions on them. Apply them to your life, our world, the people you know, the people in charge. Do they hold up? Consider something like your senior quote!

5. GOVERNMENT (40 pts)

-ONE way in which your community could be improved.

THINK LOCAL! Read the local section of the newspaper. Find a situation that interests you. Think about what you and people like you could do to improve the situation. Thoughtfully, record this situation and your suggestions. Argue for your solution with evidence and using rhetorical strategies. This should be an argumentative essay-- so 5 paragraphs, MLA, cite your sources. You can visit your local city hall, community center, or library for resources.

-Choose the ONE IMPORTANT current issue

This should be something that you find in the media. Then, examine at least TWO different stakeholders (SIDES) and their positions in the debate. Then, form a personal opinion on each issue, based on reading the newspapers, newsmagazines, and other (reliable) sources. This is a synthesis essay! You know the drill-- 5 paragraphs, MLA, cite your sources.

6. OBSERVATIONS & TRENDS (20 pts)

-Observe TWO trends in society

We're talking culture now. This can be local, national or global. Over the next few weeks, collect notes on these trends. Before turning in the Treasure Chest, evaluate each trend. Is it good/bad for society? What is causing it? What are its possible effects? Each trend analysis should be thoughtfully examined and be at least two paragraphs in length.

Mrs. Pasillas's AP Language Worthy Book List

- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell (what separates the best, the brightest, and the most successful people from everyone else)
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (the first "true crime" book about the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers)
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (an American classic!)
- *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt (this book won numerous, highly prestigious prizes...considered readable, interesting, ground-breaking, and it's about economics!)
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (a recollection of the Vietnam war as told by someone who was there)
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (a man abandons everything after high school and travels into the wilderness...addresses the issues of how to be accepted into society, and how finding oneself sometimes conflicts with being an active member in society)
- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt (poverty, starvation, and exuberance in depression Ireland)
- *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell (how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant...that aren't as simple as they seem...cutting edge neuroscience and psychology)
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (a boy raised in Afghanistan grows up with the shame of having failed to fight the gang of boys who raped his closest friend)
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance (a man from Ohio describes poverty and low-paying, physical jobs that have since disappeared or worsened in their guarantees, and compares this life with his perspective after leaving that area and life.)
- *How Soccer Explains the World* by Franklin Foer (a surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between)
- *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer (harrowing tale of the perils of high altitude climbing, a story of bad luck and worse judgment and heartbreaking heroism)
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (coming-of-age novel written from the perspective of teenage Latina, Esperanza Cordero, who struggles with her life in a Chicano and Puerto Rican neighborhood of Chicago)

- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales. Psychology* by Oliver Sacks (the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders...stories of individuals afflicted with fantastic perceptual and intellectual aberrations)
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (1969 autobiography describing the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou)
- *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy (about Presidents! of special interest to students interested in politics, public life...about the kind of courage America needs— moral courage, the courage of personal integrity)
- *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach (humorous, touching, and respectful look at how scientists utilize the human body)
- *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham (moving memoir of early 20th Century woman aviator in East Africa)
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel (a true, haunting account of one Jewish prisoner's experience during the Holocaust)
- *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer (a true story of the recent violent religious extremism in our own country)
- *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman (author struggles to come to terms with his parents' brutal past at Auschwitz in this seminal graphic novel)
- *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger (Swordfish boat vs. Mother Nature)
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (story of a woman whose cancerous cells were developed in culture without her knowledge and became the HeLa line scientists used in researching some of the most important and astounding medical discoveries of the 20th century)
- *Positively 5th Street* by James McManus (World series of poker and murder in Vegas)
- *Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein's Brain* by Michael Paterniti (yes, it's true)
- *Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival* by Norman Ollestad (a young boy is in a plane crash in the San Gabriel Mountains and must survive on his own)
- *War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning* by Chris Hedges (told from eyewitness counts on why war is both fascinating as well as tragic)
- *Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog* by Ted Kerasote (a man and a dog and how the relationship and place in life changes)
- *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed (a young woman gives up everything in life to hike and find herself)