

# Buford High School – AP Language – Summer Reading 2010

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## MEMORANDUM

To: AP Language Students for 2010-2011  
From: Mrs. Lister  
Re: Summer Assignments / Contact Information  
Date: May 3, 2010

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1. Attached please find your Summer Assignments for 2010. You will read one 20<sup>th</sup> century play, one non-fiction book, and a style manual. Please read the directions for each assignment carefully. If you have any questions, please see me at school OR send me an e-mail at [amy.lister@bufordcityschools.org](mailto:amy.lister@bufordcityschools.org).
2. You are responsible for securing copies of these books. I have found that AP students usually benefit from having their own personal copy of each book so that they can highlight significant passages and make notes in the margins. While you are not required to purchase the books, you will need copies of them for the first few days of class -- plan accordingly.
3. You will complete a short written assignment for the non-fiction book and the play. See the instructions on the following page. This assignment is due on the FIRST day of school – **Thursday, August 5**.
4. We will take an objective test covering all three books on the FIRST day of school – **Thursday, August 5**. We will then spend some time discussing all three books before writing an in-class essay over one of the books (your choice of book, but my choice of topic).
5. Please complete the information at the bottom of this page and RETURN IT TO MRS. LISTER (Room 105) before the end of the school year.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I verify that I have received and read the AP Language Summer Assignments for 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

**The authors and works represented here have all appeared on the College Board's AP English Literature Exam. AP English is considered a college-level course and, as such, may include readings with mature language and themes.**

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This summer you will read THREE things—a play, a non-fiction book, and a style manual.

## **Reading Assignment #1—*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (20<sup>th</sup> Century Play)**

In a response to the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s, Arthur Miller wrote this play set against the backdrop of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Salem Witch Trials. It's a chilling tale of paranoia, revenge, and (im)morality.

- In a one-page, typed response, analyze one of the characters from this story who you feel is crucial to the meaning of the story. Questions you should ask yourself as you prepare this response are as follows: How is this character important to the story? What is the motivating force behind this character? Does this character change at all throughout the story, and in what ways? What seems to bring about the change, or what seems to hinder a change? How does this character play into one of the themes of the play (which means you should mention a theme of the play.)

While some tempting choices for characters might be one of the main three—John, Elizabeth, or Abigail—you might entertain the idea of focusing on some of the supporting characters like Rev. Hale, Mary Warren, or Giles Corey.

(Do whatever you need to do to keep this to one page. You can play with margins, line spacing, font size, etc., but I do not want more than one page for this assignment.)

## **Reading Assignment #2—*Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell (Nonfiction)**

The author explores why some people are high achievers and others are not, citing culture, family, and upbringing as possible reasons some people are not as successful as others.

- In a typed response of at least 750 words, answer the following questions:
  - What is the overall purpose or point of this book?
  - How does the author go about supporting his point?
  - Which chapter, example, or illustration from the book do you think best supports the author's point? Explain how this mode of support is particularly effective.
  - Attack, defend, or qualify the overall assertion that Gladwell makes in this book using your own observations, experience, or knowledge as support for your argument.

## **Reading Assignment #3—*Elements of Style* by Strunk and White**

This book has been considered the “bible” of all issues concerning grammar and style. I suggest you buy it (it's cheap!).

- You do not have to have any written work prepared for this book, but expect to be tested on its contents.

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