



First Academy Leesburg

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading 2025-26

Mrs. Martin (cmartin@faleesburg.com)

If you have questions while working on summer reading, please feel free to email me. Give me time to respond to your email however, since I will also be enjoying my time off and will not check my emails regularly.

Advanced placement classes are conducted at a collegiate level. Your ideas should not be expressed in sentence fragments or with unsupported assertions, but rather with well thought-out responses. **The assignment is due by the first Friday of class. Assignments 1 and 2 are required.**

“Previous research has shown that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development a year, while students who do read gain a month of reading proficiency. The result is a three- to four-month gap every year, which will snowball into a 1 ½--year gap between the time children complete kindergarten and the time they finish fifth grade.”

Dr. Richard L. Allington

Required: Assignment #1

Essay Analysis Assignment: Read three essays from the list below. For each essay, complete an analysis chart using the attached worksheet or this [link](#) (you may make your own copies of this worksheet or create your own using this one as a format). All essays can be found online through a web search. The worksheet(s) will need to be printed and turned in unless it is recreated on paper (no digital turn in).

1. Jonathan Swift, “A Meditation upon a Broomstick”
2. Annie Dillard, “This is the Life”
3. Ralph Waldo Emerson (any of the following: “The Poet,” “Experience,” “Character,” “Manners,” “Gifts,” “Nature,” “Politics,” “Nominalist and Realist,” “New England Reformers”)
4. Henry David Thoreau “Where I Lived, and What I Lived For”
5. G.K. Chesterton (any of the following: “A Piece of Chalk,” “Babies,” “A Defence of Rash Vows,” “The Extraordinary Cabman,” “Mending and Ending Things,” “Negative and Positive Morality,” “The Twelve Men”)
6. Robert Louis Stevenson “El Dorado”
7. Percy Bysshe Shelley, « On Life »
8. Albert Einstein “The World as I see It”

Required: Assignment #2

Read this excerpt from Chapter 8 of Tim Keller’s *The Reason for God*. Excerpt link [Here](#).

After reading the excerpt, in writing, determine what Keller’s overall argument/thesis is for the excerpt and give rationale to prove your answer.

Optional: Assignment #3

Read a grade level or above book of choice and receive:

- 50-point extra credit score averaged in for the 1st 9 weeks
- 1 dress down day pass
- 1 homework pass

*****Please note that Assignments #1 and #2 MUST be completed in order to receive extra credit for reading a book of choice.**

Parents must sign the bottom portion of this letter and students will turn in on the FIRST Friday of school.

In order to receive credit, this must be signed by all parties and turned in by the first Friday of school, without exception, unless prior consent has been given by Mrs. Martin.

I, (parent) _____, attest to the fact that (student) _____ read and completed ALL the required assignments and read a book of choice that was grade level or above.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Staff Witness: _____

I, (student) _____, attest to the fact that I completed the required assignments and read a book of choice.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of the book: _____