



AP Language & Composition, Mrs. Gonder

You are all required to read William Kent Krueger's *Ordinary Grace*. We will use this text to discuss topics with grades 10-12. For your second book, you will focus on thinking like a writer; you will choose between Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* or Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing*. For your third book, you have some choices in narrative nonfiction. You will choose **one** of the following texts: Molly Caldwell Crosby's *The American Plague*, Annie Dillard's *An American Childhood*, Wes Moore's *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, Dennis Covington's *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, or Morrie Schwartz's *Morrie: In His Own Words*. I would recommend that you read about all of your options or talk to a student who was in AP Language last year before choosing your texts. Find something that piques your interest or perhaps choose one that you would never read on your own. The goal is to both enjoy the reading and be challenged by it. You should buy paper copies, and you should be able to find all of these books at local bookstores or on Amazon.

As you read, you need to complete the following:

1. Please annotate fully. This means that you are

- a) underlining sections of the text that significantly add to the themes of the text. Come prepared to discuss these findings.
  - a. Perhaps keep a running list of themes in the front or back of your book.
- b) defining words that you are unfamiliar with in the margins.
- c) brainstorming possible purposes for the text as a whole. You should write these ideas in your book as well.
- d) noting questions you may have as you read.

I will be checking annotations at the beginning of the next school year as an assessment of your reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. This does not mean that you need to have underlined or highlighted every word of the book, rather you should be taking great care in what you find important to the text as a whole. You may have annotations on sticky notes, if that is your style for note-taking in books.

I will expect that during the first weeks of school you will be able to communicate your findings within the texts both in written form and oral form. For all of these texts, you will have assessments where you can use your book. The better your annotations, the better your essays and discussions.

If you should need anything over the summer, please feel free to email me at [gonder.charli@hardingacademymemphis.org](mailto:gonder.charli@hardingacademymemphis.org). However, remember that because of travel and summer plans, I may not respond as quickly as I would during the school year. I look forward to having you in my class in August! May you learn, may you grow, may God guide your steps and heart this summer.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Charli Gonder