The following books are available in libraries and bookstores; however, we strongly recommend you purchase these books if possible so that you can highlight passages and make marginal notes.

Part I: For **ON WRITING: A MEMOIR of the CRAFT**
by Stephen King

**Parental Warning: Graphic Language**

Have you ever wondered: “Did the author mean to do that?” King’s book, which is subtitled A Memoir of the Craft, provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, “What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it’s done.” In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) The book is divided into four sections: C.V., Toolbox, On Writing, and On Living: A Postscript. Your assignments will, likewise, be divided into four sections. For each assignment below, please include the page numbers for the passages discussed.

**Task # 1: C.V.**
This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e., imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces. Identify three passages in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. Explain the elements/techniques he uses and why they are effective. You should choose three different literary elements; this writing assignment may be five paragraphs.

**Task # 2: Toolbox**
Create a writer’s toolbox for yourself. Identify 7 rules of writing that King discusses (include the page number), which you think are important or interesting. Then, add an additional 7 rules of writing which you have either practiced or been taught throughout your school career. Example: Don’t begin a sentence with “and.” In class, we will discuss the merit of these various “rules.” This assignment can be completed with two bulleted or numbered lists.
Part II: Various Selections from *The New Kings of Nonfiction* by Ira Glass

As you read, take notes and observations on the essays within the collection. You should annotate and react to the text in order to prepare yourself for an in-class timed writing that will occur during the first week of school. When annotating the text, either through post its or in-margin annotations, consider elements of author, audience, purpose, stylistic merit and visuals as you consider your choices. Following are a list of the selected readings and links to each.

**Jonathan Lebed’s *Extracurricular Activities***

**Six Degrees of Lois Weisberg***

**The American Man, Age Ten***
http://m.learning.hccs.edu/faculty/scotty.moore/anth2351/anth-2301-summer-readings/the-american-male-at-age-10

**Among the Thugs***

**Crazy Things Seem Normal, Normal Things Seem Crazy***
https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxqbHMXMDZpbnRy
b3VZG9jc3R1ZGlj3xneDo3ODE0Mzc1ZDE4YWU0MGE4

**Host***

**Tales of the Tyrant***

**Losing the War***
http://www.leesandlin.com/articles/LosingTheWar.htm

**The Hostess Diaries***

**Power Steer***
Part III: Choose one of the following nonfiction texts:

- *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner
- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth: Popularity, Quirk Theory, and Why Outsiders Thrive After High School* by Alexandra Robbins
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

You will keep a dialectical journal as you read these works. At a minimum, you should have at least 20 responses in your journal. The journal will be collected on the first day of class.

See the following handout for detailed directions for the dialectical journal.
The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. Journals should be typed (or printed NEATLY), proofread, and edited. Neatness in this journal is absolutely essential. Your journal should be free of drawings and doodles, and must be clearly organized.

LEFT SIDE: CHOOSE PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT. COPY THE PASSAGES DOWN COMPLETELY AND CITE THE APPROPRIATE PAGE NUMBERS.

- As you read, look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling.
- Choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column or a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
- You should have at LEAST 20 entries that span the entirety of the text.

RIGHT SIDE: RESPOND TO THE TEXT

In the right column, write your response to your selected quotes/passages (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage). You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed.

Your commentary should discuss the following elements:

1. Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices (e.g. diction, syntax, figurative language)
2. Passages that remind you of something you’ve seen before, something you’ve read elsewhere (archetypal connections)
3. Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
4. Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting and its significance
5. Structural shifts or turns in the narrative
6. Passages that evoke questions within the reader.
7. Passage that make you realize something you had not realized before, cause a personal reaction within you, or relate to your own experiences.
8. None of your entries should be plot summary/synopsis.

*80 percent of your commentary should deal with stylistic and literary devices-- focus on LITERARY analysis. Some personal reflections are fine, but they should not constitute more than 20 percent of your journal.
SCORING

_____ (10) Completeness
  • Your journal contains 10 entries/ every 100 pages of text
  • Your journal entries span the entirety of the text

_____ (10) Neatness
  • Your journal is typed or printed NEATLY
  • There is a clear relationship between the passages from the text and your explanatory entries

_____ (30) Content of Entries
  • You provide thorough and thoughtful discussions regarding the text
  • 80 percent of your entries focus on the writing and style-- literary and stylistic analysis
  • You clearly reference specific attributes of each passage discussed
  • Your entries do not include plot summary or synopsis
  • You do not contain any misreadings in your journal