



Next Stop:

Pre-AP 2

With

Mrs. Lewis

**PRE-AP English 2 Syllabus
This Summer and Beyond**

PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE YOU START WORKING ON THIS! Welcome to the bridge to both AP Language and Composition (junior class) and the AP English Literature and Composition (senior class). Preparing for these classes will require us to cover a lot of material at a rapid pace. Fasten your seatbelts!

I view my role in your education as teaching you to both read and think critically. Once you can do that, we can work on translating that into writing critically. If you are not willing to challenge yourself, read a lot, and write even more, this may not be the class for you. If you are up to the challenge, here are your summer assignments and some things that you can do to prepare yourself for next year:

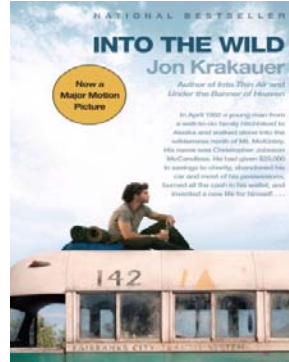


Summer reading—To begin with, read about Socrates and the allegory of the cave from Plato's *Republic*. A simplified version is available at website below.

<http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/platocave.html>

It will explain the intellectual journey we are undertaking. In your **writer's** notebook (reading journals and writing notebooks are described later in this document), please write a paragraph or two that explains what you believe the point of the allegory to be and how you feel about it. Date your entry. Use standard formal English. This will serve as a way for me to judge your writing and comprehension skills, so do your best work! Due August 17, 2009 (the first day of school).





In addition, you will be required to read the book, *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (do not panic if your book cover is different), along with another book of your choice (see the district website for suggested titles and the “Rate Your Book” form you must fill out in order to receive your “no homework” pass). You must read this book in order to complete the first few assignments I give when school starts. You will be required to keep a reader-response/dialectical journal for *Into the Wild*. You will find instructions for how to do this on the Nicenet website (look under “Documents”). Instructions to access Nicenet are below. Formatting information for your journal is available on the School Notes Document Central page (link available on Nicenet under “Link Sharing”). You will use your **reading journal** for your responses. If you prefer, the School Notes site has a template to keep the journal electronically. Journal is worth 100 points (also due August 17, 2009). For Nicenet, access the following website:

<http://www.nicenet.org>.

You must register to use the Nicenet site. Notice it is .org and not .com. You will need the class key 926Z6Z7P76 (copy and paste) to register. Make sure your user name is close to your real name. You must also give your email address. If you do not have an email address, create one at yahoo, aol, msn or one of the other free sites. **Add Nicenet to your favorites.** You will use it often. Your assignment schedule will be posted here all year. You will also submit most of your written work done for this class here. Once you are in, you will need to go to “Assignment Schedule” (look on the left hand side of the class page). Look at the schedule. It lists when postings are due. That information is also available later in this document and on School Notes (link to School Notes under “Link Sharing” on Nicenet).

In addition, you must make at least five postings to our forum regarding *Into the Wild*. This translates into at least 1 post per section of the book. Look at the deadlines to

see chapter assignments. I will be posting also. My user name on the forum is **del1108**. Log into Nicenet, and go to “Link Sharing.” You will find the link there. I suggest you add it to your favorites for easy access. You will be using the forum all year also. You will also notice there is a place for you to ask questions if you can’t wait or are confused by my instructions.

When the page loads, click on “Register,” then agree to the terms. You will not be allowed to make postings unless you register (which means **no credit**). You will need to create a username (Again, PLEASE make it close to your real name), supply your e-mail address, and then create a password. **Remember your username and password, especially if you use multiple usernames, passwords, e-mail, etc. I cannot retrieve these for you.** and you will be using these sites all year! Write it in the inside cover of your writer’s notebook or agenda book if necessary. Type in the confirmation code (the letters and numbers above the box—be careful! It is case sensitive. If you can’t tell what case it is, assume it is capitalized). Last step is to change the answer to “Are you human?” to “yes”. The default is “no”. This may seem silly, but this prevents bots from crashing our system. We had problems this past year when the system crashed. After you have registered for both Nicenet and the forum, please email your user name (and if you like, your password—not required but it gives us a record of it) to me at my home e-mail address (listed in this document) so that I can give you proper credit. Finally, **add this page to your favorites**. Abusive or inappropriate comments will result in you being blocked from the system (again resulting in no points for you). Register as soon as possible as I will be using the member lists to create mass e-mails for summer information and announcements.

Your first posting must be made by **July 1**. Your postings can include questions, reactions, response to others’ postings, etc. to what you are reading. Just like your reading journal, I do not want you to summarize what you read. I am reading the book, too. I don’t need you to tell me what happens. You need to get out of the summary habit and into the “how do I feel about what I’ve read?” habit.

Posting Responses:

You may begin posting as soon as you begin reading. Responses must be posted by 12 midnight at the end of the due date; final posting dates for each section of the book are listed below:

Into the Wild

Posting #1	July 1, 2009	Chapters 1-4
Posting #2	July 10, 2009	Chapters 5-8
Posting #3	July 17, 2009	Chapters 9-12
Posting #4	July 24, 2009	Chapters 13-16
Posting #5	July 31, 2009	Chapters 17-18 and epilogue

You are encouraged to make more than the required number of postings.

Questioners are welcome to participate in the discussion. Forum participants are good sources of information if you do not understand a section or have questions about what you read.

Keep discussion threads tidy by paying attention to where you are replying and not creating new, unnecessary topics. In addition, please do not post ahead. For example do not make postings about chapter 13 before July 24. Don't spoil the books for the rest of us!

You should read over the other postings before completing your own postings. Be sure to respond directly to the observations made by your peers. The obvious exception to this rule is if you are the first responder to post. To promote variety, try to avoid always being the first (or, for that matter, the last) person!

Keep in mind this is a public site being used for academic purposes. For this reason, formal language is to be used. Slang, IM short forms, etc. are not allowed. Practice good language mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation) and appropriate citation of sources. You may wish to compose in Word and then spellcheck, transferring your completed responses to the discussion board. This practice also prevents loss of your work should you lose connection to the discussion board. Postings using informal language or symbols will not be counted toward your grade. It's allowable, but not countable.

Responses Evaluation

Responding to at least one other poster's reply: 2 points

Posting thoughts about assignment, questions, ideas, etc.: 2 points

Timely participation (meeting the response deadline with ALL components): 1 point

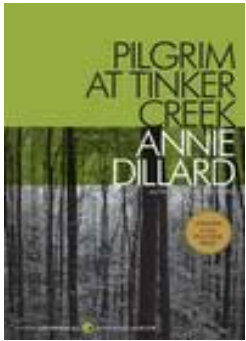
Using concrete examples / evidence from the texts: 1 point

Making connections (with elsewhere in the text, others' responses, readings, personal experience and wider scope of literature/media, etc.): 1 point

Conventions (clarity/correctness, courtesy, form, expression): 1 point

TOTAL: 8 points (only full points will be used). Points are accumulated each week (40 pts. possible overall)

You will be using the forum to post comments on books all year, so familiarize yourself with it.



The first book we will be reading when school begins is *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard. Copies of the book should be available at your local bookstore. I also have several copies if you would like to borrow one. However, if you do decide to borrow one, you will not be allowed to annotate (write in it). Book annotation is one of the skills we will work on this year. Get over your fear of writing in your books. If the book belongs to you, nothing bad will happen. I promise! It's a necessary skill for AP English (Language and Literature) students.

We will begin Dillard's book the first week of class. Our theme for first semester is rebellion and conformity, and I think you will be able to see the relationships between *Into the Wild*, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, and our theme easily.

The books mentioned may be obtained through various sources (bookstores such as Borders, Barnes and Noble, and others either carry the books or will order them for you, or try online retailers such as Amazon). Several of the online sellers offer used editions at a much lower cost (copies of *Pilgrim* available for \$3.25 {newest edition; older editions for less} and *Into the Wild* for \$2.10 + postage). If you need assistance in obtaining a book (financial or otherwise), please contact me **immediately**, and I can make special arrangements for you. This is not a problem. I will be happy to help.

1. Materials you will find helpful (which means not required, but strongly suggested):
 - a. Internet access (public library, friend's house, etc. if you don't have it at home)—nearly essential. This class will be as paperless as possible.
 - b. **Two** spiral or other bound notebooks or binders (one for Writer's Journal and one for Reading Journal—you will need both. Pick notebooks or journals that “speak” to you. You'll be more likely to use them well that way. I use a bound journal book that has school-type images on it.)
 - c. Small Post-It notes or tape flags (usually located by the Post-Its)
 - d. Highlighters (at least two different colors preferred)

If you do not have them items or have no way of providing them, please talk to me or email me **as soon as possible**, and we can make special arrangements.

2. You will need to keep the following e-mail addresses:
 - a. dlewis@kahoks.org (my school address)
 - b. dw11161@aol.com (my home address)

While school is in session, my school address is my primary address. When school is not in session (like the summer or winter break), my home address is the primary. You may also contact me via the forum, Nicenet, or School Notes.

3. Outside reading is **required** in this class. Do not expect to complete your reading assignments in class. If you do not read, you will fall behind and will not be able to participate in class discussions and class work. This will impact your grade. We will be studying a lot of different types of literature, ranging from ancient Greeks to modern day, from short stories to essays to poetry to plays. We will be moving fast, so it is **essential** that you complete the assigned readings. You will often be reading more than one author at the same time. Readings will be grouped around the sophomore themes for 2009-2010: *Rebellion and Conformity* (1st semester) and *Loyalty and Betrayal* (2nd

semester). We will stick to the theme as much as possible, with slight variations depending upon genre being studied.

Texts to be used in class include (subject to change):

Into the Wild (summer) *Pilgrim at Tinker's Creek* (1st quarter)
Siddhartha (2nd quarter) *The Importance of Being Earnest* (3rd quarter)
The Scarlet Letter (4th quarter) literature circle choices

AND

various other selections as chosen by instructor (including short stories, extensive poetry selections, excerpts from novels, essays, etc.).

Students may provide their own texts, but text purchase is not required. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Scarlet Letter* are both available on-line. Other texts may be found at the public library or borrowed from me. In addition, we will work on becoming critical viewers of various forms of media.

4. We will study common allusions (references authors use that the reader is expected to recognize) at the rate of one per week. We will look at allusions from mythology, religion, literature and history, and language and idioms. These will be formally tested at the end of the year, and they will appear on assignments from time to time.
5. I will not accept late homework with the exception of excused absences. It is your responsibility to find out the assignment and make up work. Class assignments are listed on Nicenet and School Notes. Most handouts are available on one of those sites so you can keep up with your work. Check these sites first! If no assignment is listed, there was no homework. If an assignment was listed, but no document was attached, it was either covered on the board, or I have handouts for you when you return. Not all homework will be collected for a grade. Some will be covered in class. Large projects (100 points or more)

may be turned in late, but will be reduced one letter grade per day (starting with the end of the class period).

6. This is a class where discussion rules. You will be expected to not only contribute, but to listen politely and respond to other's comments. Put downs, name-calling, etc. will not be tolerated. Whole class discussion, small group discussion and Socratic seminars will be used on a variety of topics. **If you are absent frequently, this will have a negative impact on your grade in this class. Thus, this is probably not the class for you.**
7. The voice a writer uses (including yours) will be studied with emphasis placed on areas that you will need to know in order to excel in your future AP classes. Elements of voice studied will include diction, detail, figurative language, imagery, syntax and tone.
8. Grammar will be studied by using a modeling/sentence-combining method. I have found this to be useful in both composition and standardized test taking situations.
9. This class will involve a great deal of writing. Much of this will be done in class, but not all. Make sure that you meet all writing deadlines. We will write on the average of at least one paragraph a week. There will be frequent writing projects, essays and a research paper. We will study the Jane Schaffer writing model and practice the writing process extensively. Please do not take criticism of your work personally. You are in this class to become a better writer. Papers may be reviewed by peers, whole class and instructor. Writing days will include vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, and mechanics, along with composition skills.

10. You will be working in various small groups on many different projects. You must be able to work well with others and be productive in order to be successful in this class. Do not let down your group members by not completing your work on time. Of course, some of your work will be done alone.
11. Bring materials with you to class every day, unless otherwise instructed. We will be working every day. I expect you to be prepared.
12. Extra credit is rarely offered. You are preparing to do college level work next year. College does not offer extra credit!
13. Keep track of books you have read in your reading journal (especially if you read them for enjoyment outside of class). We will be discussing good choices in literature, why you should read certain books, what will improve your reading skills, and so forth, in class frequently. I would also like to keep a list of recommended books that you can help me with. If you want literary quality (what AP wants you to read), check out the lists on my School Notes homepage.
14. Only one more thing to do. Go to www.Number2.com and enroll for both ACT and SAT preparation. Enter my school e-mail address as your coach. This way I can monitor your progress.