



## THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MUSCAT

### ***2008 Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading***

**Justification for Assigned Summer Reading:** Academic research has proved that students who are engaged in focused, meaningful reading and journaling throughout summer break begin the next school year more successfully than students who do not. Since AP courses are rigorous and demanding, a student's preparation for them is essential. Summer reading is an effective, proactive way to help prepare students for the demands of advanced academic coursework.

The requirements I have for this assignment are intended to be engaging and thought-provoking, as well as to introduce students to the level of literature we will study in class and the expectations I have for them with regards to work ethic.

Not outside of the expectations of an AP English course, individual purchase of the texts is required. Please inquire with Mr. Riddle ([brady.riddle@gmail.com](mailto:brady.riddle@gmail.com)) or Mrs. Langille in the library for assistance if needed.

#### **Required:**

- 1) Ehrenreich, Barbara: *Nicked and Dimed*
- 2) Diamond, Jared: *Collapse*
- 3) Select ONE noted columnist from a newspaper or news journal (i.e. *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Economist*, etc.) and follow the editorials or op-ed columns of that writer. Your journal should include either the editorial or article, cut from the news source, or an MLA style citation, including the date. I anticipate one column per week.

(Other suggested readings are *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin, and *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer)

**ALL** Students are expected to complete the summer reading assignments listed above and will be held accountable for the readings the first week of school, beginning August 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, a reading journal will be one "product" of the assignment, **due the first day of class**. Reading journal expectations and rubric are below.

## **Grading Rubric**

Language, or rhetorical, analysis includes an in-depth view of author's purpose, observation and discussion of content and specific rhetorical devices, such as language (the whole body of words used in a text), perspective, tone (attitude towards an audience or topic), modes of appeal (ethos, pathos and logos), audience, and overall message and effect of delivery of the text.

While reading, the AP Language student should notice the subtleties of the author's words that affect the reader, as well as convey a meaning. Questions such as, "Why does the author present a certain topic in the manner he/she does?" and "To what extent is this true?" and "How is this meaningful to me?" should be raised and attempted to be answered. Consider the source of the text as part of the assessment of the text. Ultimately, you should also be prepared to defend, challenge, or qualify (make a balanced judgment of) some ideas presented, as well as establish a basis of understanding of the text.

Saying this, it IS permissible to get creative with your entries:

- Argue with the text (with regards to the ideas expressed in the text!!)
- Respond thoughtfully and philosophically
- Engage in conversation with the author or one of the characters in such a way as to present a side of an argument or a certain point of view.
- Agree or disagree with controversial ideas; address them analytically
- Develop your own philosophy and present it in the form of a letter or a speech
- Imitate the author's style by constructing short, similarly written passages

ALL journal entries are to be AT LEAST 1 page, typed in 12 point font, double spaced, and in a neutral font style (Times, Arial, Rockwell, Bookman Old Style). Handwritten journals MUST be legible and at least 1 ½ pages in length.

So, the product assessment is going to be weighed on the above criteria, as well as outlined in the following: (includes both summer reading assignments)

Over 20 entries	_____ superior (100)
17 – 20 entries	_____ excellent (90 – 95)
14 – 16 entries	_____ acceptable (80 – 85)
9 – 13 entries	_____ poor (70 – 78)
Less than 9 entries	_____ unacceptable (0 – 60)

**\*\*\*NOTE:** Plagiarism (copying sources from the internet or any other source and using that information as your own) will result in an automatic loss of credit for the assignment and may jeopardize your grade the first quarter of the 2008-2009 school year.