

AP Language and Composition: AP English 11

Summer Reading Assignments

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

1. **Read part of *On Writing*** by Stephen King. Complete the reading assignment below. Read this book first so that you think about King's ideas about writing style and theme as you read the science fiction selection by Ray Bradbury.
2. **Read *The Illustrated Man*** by Ray Bradbury. Complete the reading assignment on the next page.
3. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions, give a presentation, and write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school. Annotated books are due on the first day of class.

Questions?

AP English 11 Summer Reading Contact:

Mrs. Jennifer Smith (jennifer.smith@jp2hs.org)

Reading Assignment for *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

AP Language and Composition is very writing-intensive course. By the end of the year, you will have to demonstrate mastery of analytical, synthesis, and argumentative writing. To become stronger writers, you must study the “masters,” and Stephen King’s successful fiction and nonfiction writing career has proven that he qualifies as a “master” of writing.

King’s memoir about his development as a writer begins with a section entitled, “C.V.” [curriculum vitae] in which he writes an autobiographical account of his development into a person who writes for a living; this section is OPTIONAL. **Please read the rest of the book, beginning with the section entitled “Toolbox.”** As you read, **annotate the “tools” King says should be in every writer’s “toolbox.”** In other words, what are the rules to good writing, according to King? What does he think about when he crafts stories? When you return from summer break, groups will be assigned to present on the “tools” that they now have in their writing “tool box.”

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

Immensely helpful and illuminating to any aspiring writer, this special edition of Stephen King’s critically lauded, million-copy bestseller shares the experiences, habits, and convictions that have shaped him and his work.

“Long live the King” hailed *Entertainment Weekly* upon publication of Stephen King’s *On Writing*. Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer’s craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King’s advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported, near-fatal accident in 1999—and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery. Brilliantly structured, friendly and inspiring, *On Writing* will empower and entertain everyone who reads it—fans, writers, and anyone who loves a great story well told.

ISBN-13: 978-1439156810

Stephen King | *On Writing*
A Memoir of the Craft



Reading Assignment for *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury

As you read the novel, annotate for the theme topics listed below. In addition to the theme topics, annotate your observations of Bradbury's writing style: pay close attention to the **narrators/point of view**, the **writing style changes** (with point of view changes), **setting**, and **symbols**.

BONUS: Annotate writing elements that match ideas that you read in Stephen King's book *On Writing*.

Annotations will be assessed the first day of class, and a literary analysis essay will follow.

Theme Topics for Annotations

1. technology vs. humanity
2. individual vs. society
3. justice and injustice
4. faith and religion
5. death and meaning of life
6. allegory: cautionary tales

The Illustrated Man by Ray Bradbury

Ray Bradbury brings wonders alive. For this peerless American storyteller, the most bewitching force in the universe is human nature. In these eighteen startling science fiction tales unfolding across a canvas of tattooed skin, living cities take their vengeance, technology awakens the most primal natural instincts, and dreams are carried aloft in junkyard rockets. Provocative and powerful, *The Illustrated Man* is a kaleidoscopic blending of magic, imagination, and truth—as exhilarating as interplanetary travel, as maddening as a walk in a million-year rain, and as comforting as simple, familiar rituals on the last night of the world.

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- ISBN-13: 978-1451678185
(from *Amazon*)

