

## AP Language and Composition Summer Reading – 2013

To ensure that your brains will not turn into mush over the course of this summer, please complete the following assignments and be ready to discuss the texts, prove you read the texts, and complete the accompanying assignments for the texts during the first week of school.

**Texts to Read:** You can pick up these copies at the bookstore, the local library, or purchase them on your own. Below each text is a review and information about the book that is posted on amazon.com.

**All are Required Reading:** Be prepared to write essay(s), participate in Socratic Seminar(s), take test(s), and other activities regarding these three books to be completed during the first few weeks of school.

### Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters by Mark Dunn

*Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal pangram, \* “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.” Now Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island’s Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop. As the letters progressively drop from the statue they also disappear from the novel.*

*\*pangram: a sentence or phrase that includes all the letters of the alphabet*

### Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines by Nic Sheff

*Nic Sheff was drunk for the first time at age eleven. In the years that followed, he would regularly smoke pot, do cocaine and Ecstasy, and develop addictions to crystal meth and heroin. Even so, he felt like he would always be able to quit and put his life together whenever he needed to. It took a violent relapse one summer in California to convince him otherwise. In a voice that is raw and honest, Nic spares no detail in telling us the compelling, heartbreaking, and true story of his relapse and the road to recovery. As we watch Nic plunge the mental and physical depths of drug addiction, he paints a picture for us of a person at odds with his past, with his family, with his substances, and with himself. It's a harrowing portrait-but not one without hope.*

### The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

*The Woman Warrior is a pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California. Maxine Hong Kingston distills the dire lessons of her mother's mesmerizing "talk-story" tales of a China where girls are worthless, tradition is exalted and only a strong, wily woman can scratch her way upward. The author's America is a landscape of confounding white "ghosts"--the policeman ghost, the social worker ghost--with equally rigid, but very different rules. Like the woman warrior of the title, Kingston carries the crimes against her family carved into her back by her parents in testimony to and defiance of the pain.*