



**Austin High School  
Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP English I  
Summer Reading Assignment 2015-2016**

**Welcome to Pre-AP English I at Austin High School!** We believe the key to being a great reader is to read extensively, and the key to being a great writer is exposure to great writing. Reading is not something that we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Summer provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and analyzing writing in class.

**What is the summer reading assignment?**

From the list on the back of this page, choose ONE nonfiction book. Then, read and enjoy the book!

**When is the reading due?**

**You *MUST* finish reading the book by the first day of school, Monday, August 24.**

You will have a reading quiz in the first week, and we will continue to work with the book throughout the first six weeks.

**What should I do while I read?**

While we will not collect notes or annotations of your reading of the text, any notes or annotations regarding the following will help support you with class discussions, the reading quiz, and writing assignments—all of which will comprise part of your grades for the first six weeks. Consider marking the book and taking notes on the *significant events* in the text. To do so, ask yourself:

- Why is the specific event important?
- How does the event impact the individual(s) involved?
- What do you as the reader learn from the event about yourself, about life, and/or about human nature?

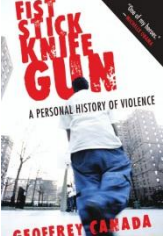
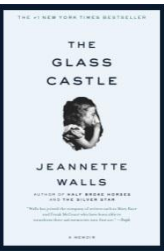
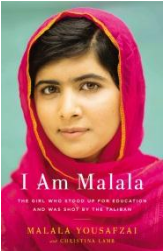

**What if I have questions?**

If you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to contact any of these 9th grade teachers for assistance:

- Mrs. Ault : [kerri.ault@austinisd.org](mailto:kerri.ault@austinisd.org)
- Mrs. Lawless: [christine.lawless@austinisd.org](mailto:christine.lawless@austinisd.org)
- Mr. Miller: [ralph.miller@austinisd.org](mailto:ralph.miller@austinisd.org)
- Mrs. Nuñez: [anita.nunez@austinisd.org](mailto:anita.nunez@austinisd.org)

## English I Pre-AP Summer Reading Book Choices

We encourage students and parents to carefully choose **ONE** book to read from the list below. All of these books are true stories recounting significant events and obstacles in the life of the main character. Some of the books contain adult language and content. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like guidance in choosing a title. Our preference is that you use a hard copy of the text for classroom use. No electronic readers, please, once the school year starts.

	<p><b><i>Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence</i></b> by Geoffrey Canada</p> <p>From Barnes &amp; Noble: “Long before the avalanche of praise for his work [...]and documentaries like <i>Waiting for Superman</i>, Geoffrey Canada was a small boy growing up scared on the mean streets of the South Bronx. His childhood world was one where “sidewalk boys” learned the codes of the block and were ranked through the rituals of fist, stick, and knife. Then the streets changed, and the stakes got even higher. In his candid and riveting memoir, Canada relives a childhood in which violence stalked every street corner.”</p>
	<p><b><i>The Glass Castle</i></b> by Jeannette Walls</p> <p>From Barnes &amp; Noble: “A remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette’s brilliant and charismatic father captured his children’s imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn’t want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.”</p>
	<p><b><i>I am Malala</i></b> by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai</p> <p>From Barnes &amp; Noble: “When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out [...] On Tuesday October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price. When she was shot in the head at point blank range while riding the bus home from school, few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in Northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, and of Malala's parents' fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.”</p>
	<p><b><i>Into the Wild</i></b> by Jon Krakauer</p> <p>From Barnes &amp; Noble: “After graduating from Emory University, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive, apparently stranded by an injury and slowly starving. [...] Digging deeply, Jon Krakauer takes an inherently compelling mystery [of his death] and unravels the larger riddles it holds: the profound pull of the American wilderness on our imagination; the allure of high-risk activities to young men of a certain cast of mind; the complex, charged bond between fathers and sons.”</p>