

Boston Collegiate Charter School
AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

Required of all incoming 11th Graders – *The American Dream* by Jim Cullen (Students must purchase a copy of this book, as Ms. O’Hern will use it frequently throughout the year in history class.) Students must **at least read the introduction** (pp. 3-10) of this book for the first day of class. AP Language and Composition will not use this book.

Required AP Language and Composition – *The Gatekeepers** by Jacques Steinberg.

Feel free (in fact, I encourage you) to take notes and annotate your book. You will have a test on *The Gatekeepers* on Thursday, August 25th (the second day of class) and you can use your book and notes on the test.

AP Language and Composition students must also read one of the following books. See me if you would like a recommendation about which book you might enjoy most.

- *Zen in the Art of Writing* by Ray Bradbury
- *On Writing** by Stephen King
- *Traveling Mercies** by Anne Lamott
- *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott
- *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris
- *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* by Amy Chua
- *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
- *A Likely Story: One Summer with Lillian Hellman* by Rosemary Mahoney
- *Freakonomics* by Steven Leavitt and Stephen Dunbar
- *My War: Killing Time in Iraq* by Colby Buzzell
- *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass** by Frederick Douglass

Once you have finished reading your choice book, you must email me. **You must finish your choice book and email me by Friday, August 19th at 8:00 am.** Let me know which book you read and what you thought of it (4-5 sentences is fine). I will then send you back a brief writing assignment or question packet in response to that book. The assignment is **due Wednesday, August 24th**, the first day of school.

* I have some copies of these books that I am happy to lend you (and I may have some personal copies of the other books as well), which will save you from buying every book. I will lend on a first-come, first-served basis. However, you may not annotate in the borrowed copies but you are free to use as many sticky notes as you like.

To make things less confusing, here is a summer reading checklist:

- I have read and annotated pages 3-10 of Jim Cullen's *The American Dream*.
- I have read and taken notes on Jacques Steinberg's *The Gatekeepers* and am ready for a test on the second day of school.
- I have read one of the choice books and emailed Mr. Underhill by August 19th at 8:00 telling him what I thought of it and I am ready to do the assignment he emails back, which is due on the first day of school.

My Contact Information:

Email (best option): munderhill@bostoncollegiate.org

Office Phone: 617-265-1172 ext. 264 (I won't check this much during the summer, so you are better off emailing or trying my cell.)

Cell Phone: 617-460-3667

Have a wonderful summer!

