



Naperville North High School

AP Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome, future AP students! We are all very excited to meet you and to begin our exploration of language and literature. We're sure that you are JUST as excited to begin your journey! All AP Language teachers request that you complete the following assignment over the summer and be prepared to discuss the texts at the start of the semester.

Read closely and [annotate the selected essays from the memoir/biography *One Long River of Song* by Brian Doyle](#). Copies of the essay packet are outside of the Communication Arts department.

Annotation is simply noting words on the page that strike you, phrases that confuse or thrill you, or places where you want to talk back to the speaker or [author]. Your goal is to record ideas and impressions for future analysis. Why bother to do this? Here's what well-known scholar and avid reader Mortimer Adler says in *How to Read a Book*:

Why is marking up a [text] indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked [text] is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thought you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.

So whether you use sticky notes, highlight passages, or write comments directly in the margins, annotation helps you become a better reader. There are no hard-and-fast rules for annotating properly, but the following approach is a good way to get started.

***Through your first reading, circle or highlight words or phrases that are interesting or unfamiliar, as well as any language choices that stand out to you. Note in the margins or on a sticky note why you are circling or highlighting these words. If you just circle, or just highlight, you will soon forget why you did so. Note words that stand out for their beauty or oddity as well as words you need to look up. Don't hesitate to make an educated guess at their meaning. --*Language of Literature* Shea, Scanlon, Aufses**

<i>One Long River of Song</i> (Essays by Brian Doyle) Read the twelve essays and perform a first read annotation for each essay.	
1. "Joyas Voladoras"	7. "The Greatest Nature Essay Ever"
2. "Leap"	8. "Lost Dog Creek"
3. "[Silence]"	9. "Dawn and Mary"
4. "The Old Typewriter in the Basement"	10. "His Listening*"
5. "Brian Doyle Interviews Brian Doyle"	11. "The Tender Next Minute"
6. "The Way We Do Not Say What We Mean When We Say What We Say"	12. "Heartchitecture"

Happy Reading! Happy Summer! We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

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