

SUMMER READING #1

The Best American Essays of the Century (TBAEOTC), Joyce Carol Oates

The AP folks expect you to have read hundreds of different essays written by hundreds of different authors about dozens of different subjects. This collection of twentieth century works is just the beginning of a year spent reading and analyzing essays, and this text will provide a solid base from which we can build exposure to effective fiction and non-fiction work. You must purchase this book online at any of the major book retailers. Prices are relatively low!

For this summer reading assignment, you will submit one essay in **Showbie** per week, for a total of 7 essays. You may work ahead and submit assignments early, but you must never submit an essay late. Thus, if you know that you are going to be gone a week or two for vacation, work ahead.

THE CODE FOR SHOWBIE IS P535L

1. Reader Responses for *TBAEOTC* (1 ½ pages per essay)

A. Type your reader responses (double-spaced for each) for the 7 separate essays listed on the next page. You will write 7 responses **in order**. Be clear and concise. Follow the formatting rules below.

B. Analyze each essay by using the flow chart provided, particularly beginning with what the author's message is. You must **provide clear evidence** to support your analysis. Use quotations from the piece.

C. Vary your analysis. Make each essay unique, as pertains to its structure, style, and content.

NOTE: Do not summarize. Summary is NOT analysis.

We will continue to analyze essays in this same structured method throughout the year. There are hundreds of authors on the must-read AP Comp list, and *TBAEOTC* contains a good number of them. Some will confuse and confound you. That's okay. Don't focus on what confuses you, look for what is effective or interesting or artistic or weird or powerful.

***TBAEOTC* list of essays for analysis:**

1. 1901: Mark Twain, *Corn-pone Opinions* **Due Monday, June 11th!**
2. 1909: John Muir, *Stickeen* **Due Monday, June 18th!**
3. 1925: H.L. Mencken, *The Hills of Zion* **Due Monday, June 25th!**
4. 1928: Zora Neale Hurston, *How It Feels to Be Colored Me* **Due Monday, July 2nd!**
5. 1970: Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* **Due Monday, July 9th!**

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6. 1972: John McPhee, *The Search for Marvin Gardens* Due Monday, July 16th!

7. 1980: Richard Rodriguez, *Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood* Due Monday, July 23rd!

NOTE: Failure to complete even one essay will result in your dismissal from the AP course altogether.

NOTE: If you are on vacation one of these days, please contact me, and I will allow you to turn it in on July 30th! You must warn me ahead of time that you will be away.