

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 five essays in **Showbie** by July 19th, 11:00 P.M.. Failure to have all five essays submitted by the due date will result in expulsion from the AP class. Since you have six weeks to do five essays, it is expected that even if you've gone on vacation for a week, you'll have the time to complete this assignment.

This class requires that you turn in work in a timely fashion. I expect you to submit one essay per week if not on vacation. If you are not submitting weekly, I will be contacting you to remind you. The essays listed below **MUST** be read carefully and thoroughly. That will take time. It will also take time to write your essay. If you wait until the last moment, your work will, most likely, not be up to par, and your score will reflect that. Poor scores on these assignments will result in your being put on probation or your expulsion from the class. You must demonstrate desire and commitment to remain in the class

WARNING: You are not to talk to one another or to a previous student about the essays you've read or are writing. That is cheating and doesn't reflect your thoughts or capabilities. Reading online summaries of the essay is also unethical. Plagiarism of any kind, copied from online or a fellow/past student, will result in severe consequences AND expulsion from the class.

*****THE CODE FOR SHOWBIE IS RQW3T**

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

A. Type your reader responses (double-spaced for each) for the 5 separate essays listed on the next page. Use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

B. Analyze each essay by using the flow chart provided. Begin with the author's message. What is he or she trying to get you to understand? How does the author help you to understand? He or she creates/uses sentence structure, strong and mature wording, literary/rhetorical devices, and tone. You must **provide a clear thesis and clear evidence** to support your analysis. Use quotations from the piece to support your ideas that prove what you believe the author's purpose is. Do not summarize the story in your essay!!!! Summary is NOT analysis.

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TBAEOTC list of essays for analysis:

1. 1901: Mark Twain, *Corn-pone Opinons* **Due Friday, June 14th by 11:00 P.M.**
2. 1909: John Muir, *Stickeen* **Due Friday, June 21st by 11:00 P. M.**
3. 1925: H.L. Mencken, **The Hills of Zion** **Due Friday, June 28th by 11:00 P.M.**
4. 1970: Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* **Due Friday, July 5th by 11:00 P. M.**
5. 1980: Richard Rodriguez, *Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood* **Due Friday, July 12th by 11:00 P. M.**

NOTE: If you have been unable to submit on one of these dates, you must first email me and inform me that you will not submit on time, and then submit the missing assignment by Friday, July 19th by 11:00 P.M.