Hello! Summer break has finally arrived which means relaxation and quarantine fun but also summer work: summer work is a way to prepare you for next year by supporting you in writing your all-important college admissions essay (which you and I will conference on in August). And hopefully you will also find some enjoyment in reading.

Here are my thoughts on summer work. I want it to be meaningful, enjoyable, and reasonable. Overloading you with tedious assignments just to “set the tone” for the class isn’t my style and doesn’t really benefit you (remember this when we’re writing lots of essays next year). Keep in mind that some AP Lit teachers assign 4 books to be read over the summer! All I’m asking is one essay draft and one book.

**Part 1: The College Essay**

I whittled down last year’s AP Lang college essay assignment to a “mere” 18 pages. Most of those pages are exemplars; some of what is included is supplemental (optional). You’ll also find helpful tips, a rubric, and a drafting checklist.

Your college essay draft will be due the first week we are back from summer break.

**Part 2: Reading**

Here is a list of 25 contemporary novels of the appropriate literary merit for AP Lit; choose one of these or choose any book as long as it’s at least 200 pages. You don’t have to annotate or take notes since I want you to enjoy the book and not be slowed down by marking (there will be plenty of time for this when the school year starts.

*All the Light We Cannot See* – Doerr

*Behold the Dreamers* – Mbue

*Disappearing Earth* – Phillips

*Exit West* – Hamid

*The Goldfinch* – Tartt

*Homegoing* – Gyasi
In the Time of the Butterflies –  Alvarez

Little: A Novel –  Carey

Little Bee –  Cleeve

Mad Boy –  Arvin

Mudbound –  Jordan

The Namesake –  Lahiri

News of the World –  Jiles

The Nix –  Hill

Peace like a River –  Enger

The Poisonwood Bible –  Kingsolver

A Prayer for Owen Meany –  Irving

Purple Hibiscus –  Adichie

The Road –  McCarthy

Salvage the Bones –  Ward

The Secret History –  Tartt

Sing, Unburied, Sing –  Ward

There,There –  Orange

A Thousand Splendid Suns –  Hosseini
Underground Railroad – Whitehead

MORE OF A NONFICTION PERSON? Try one of these:

Becoming – Obama

Between the World and Me – Coates

Born a Crime – Noah

The Coddling of the American Mind – Lukianoff

Educated – Westover

Just Mercy – Stevenson

Again, just read and enjoy. If you need to get in touch with me over the summer, feel free to email me at kelly.bateson@scienceandtech or kelly.bateson@gmail.com and I’ll be happy to answer any questions. Have a great summer, and I’ll see you the first day of your SENIOR year!

All the best!

Ms. Bateson