



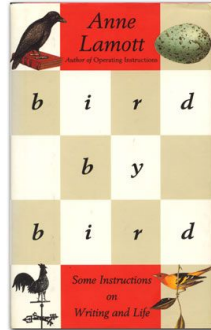
Inspire. Learn. Achieve.

## Guinan/AP Language and Composition/ **Summer Reading Assignment**

**Two books are required** reading for AP Language and Composition Summer Reading, 2021

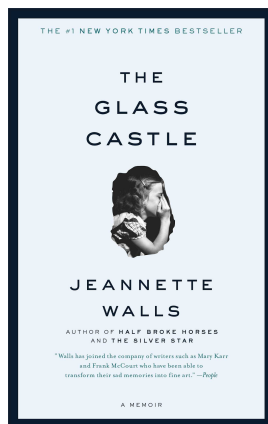
### REQUIRED:

1. **Bird By Bird** by Anne Lamott.  
Lamott's writing manual is not only smart and funny, but it also explores with tremendous heart the mystery that writers and writing teachers face: how to go about their craft. So much of Lamott's wisdom comes to bear, whether you a fiction writer or not. Remember, we are writers, all.

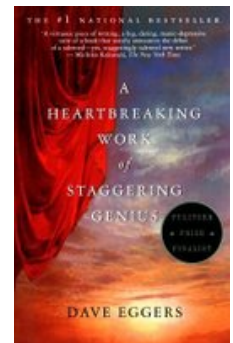


### SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls is an incredible story of the resilience and survival of an itinerant family. What the narrator endures at the hands of her dysfunctional parents is at times difficult to accept, yet Walls straightforward narration of a troubled upbringing seeks not belief or pity.



2. Dave Eggers's breakthrough memoir **A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius** is manifesto of scarred youth, of hope and despair, and of a voice of a generation coming of age. The basis for the story is the crisis of the death of both of Eggers's parents within a short time due to cancer. From these cataclysmic events, the memoirist strives to reconcile a new world with the old, the future with the past.



**The Assignment.** Read *Bird by Bird* and EITHER *The Glass Castle* or *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. (8 hours) Then choose **ONE** of the following prompts.

Exceptional students will read *Bird by Bird* and **BOTH** memoirs, and earn extra credit toward written work.

1. You are a memoirist. Reflect any of Lamott's instructions/suggestions for writing, from "sh---y first drafts" to "listening to your broccoli," to "Write about your childhood." Then **write a non fictional story of at least 1000 words** that takes Lamott's advice. An additional example: you may read carefully the chapter "Letters," then write a letter (to someone you know) that tells about an aspect of your life you feel you are losing. (3 hours)

2. You are a memoirist. Think about the ways Walls and Eggers tells their respective story. Then **write a personal essay of at least 1000 words entitled "A DAY I NEVER WANT TO RELIVE."** Remember that the point of writing is writing. Take the path that inspires your best work. (3 hours)

3. Define the below 12 rhetorical devices. Then provide an example of them from either of the two required readings, and a brief explanation of their effect. (2 hours)

- |                   |           |              |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Diction        |           | 8. Imagery   |
| 2. Antithesis     | 6. Tone   | 9. Paradox   |
| 3. Hyperbole      | 7. Pathos | 10. Analogy  |
| 4. Understatement |           | 11. Irony    |
| 5. Metaphor       |           | 12. Allusion |

e.g. ) **12. Paradox.** A paradox is a statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd but may in reality express a truth or tension. When talking about a friend who is on the verge of death, Lamott states that this woman changed her life in the sense that she is teaching her how to live. “ I remind myself of this when I cannot get any work done: to live as if I am dying...”( Lamott 179). She reminds herself of this so she can go outside and experience the world to create stories and memories she can write about.

HERE IS THE [MEMOIR RUBRIC AND SCORING NOTES](#)