



Washington Township High School  
English Department  
2022 Summer Reading Assignment

**Grade: 11**  
**Level: AP Language and Composition**

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**Assignment:** Read the required title, *Native Son* by Richard Wright, as well as *a non-fiction novel of your choice*.

**Note: Total number of books for Summer Reading: 2**

**Directions:**

Please read **Richard Wright's *Native Son* and a non-fiction title of your choice** in preparation for class discussions, formative assessments, and essays during the first few weeks of school. Since it is likely that a significant amount of time will pass between the reading and class activities, you are strongly encouraged to take notes on the novel.

**Note: Richard Wright's *Native Son*** Although this novel appears *huge*, it is a deceptively fast read. Once you get caught up in Bigger's predicament, you will not be able to put the book down until it is resolved (if it ever is)!

Also read *a non-fiction novel of your choice*. Choose a book that is written for adults and that has an author. Any topic is fine. You could choose to read a biography, a memoir, or a book that goes into depth on a topic that interests you. I will post some recommendations from this year's class on my teacher page (Mrs. Wells <https://www.wtps.org/Domain/742>). You do not have to choose from this list, just make sure that you are reading a book that is not an anthology or a reference text. It should be developed by a writer to express a message.

For each novel and major work read during this course, you will be required to complete a summary in the format attached to these directions. The best way to approach this is to create a template in MS Word (or similar program). Fill it in as you read each summer reading book. It is likely that your document will expand to two and possibly three pages. **It is very important to note that these *Rhetorical Review Sheets* are to be filled out in your own words! They must also be typed and accessible on your laptop for the start of school and will be submitted to turnitin.com. You will also need a printed copy of each for use in class.**

The curriculum for AP Language and Composition focuses on the concept of Rhetoric. This is a term that encompasses many concepts, including the art of argumentation. You will be asked to write an argument in the first few days of school that relates to your summer reading. To prepare to write this essay, we will do additional readings to help expand your understanding of the questions that the novel, *Native Son* raises. Your success on this essay, and the readings that begin the year, will be dependent on your knowledge of the novel.

**Assessment:** You will receive credit for your completion of the Rhetorical Review Sheets for both summer reading titles, which will be categorized as a supportive assessment. All other in-class assignments associated with Summer Reading will be categorized as formative assessments. **NOTE: You are required to complete (2) Rhetorical Review Sheets (one per book).**

**AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Please complete a review sheet for both novels.**  
**Due the first day of class.**

**Rhetorical Review Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication Year: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. **Soapstone.** (What is the **subject** of the work? On what **occasion** was it written? Who is the intended **audience**? What is the author's **purpose**? Who is the author (**speaker**)? What is the author's **tone**?)
- B. **Author's Claim:** (For non-fiction this refers to the central argument the author is trying to prove. For literature, this refers to the argument that is supported by the author's development of traditional literary forms.) This answers the question, what does the author want the reader to take away from this work?
- C. Main ideas or themes: (For non-fiction, these are the points made to support the central argument. For fiction, these are the ideas explored through the construction of the story)
- D. Personal critical response: (What are your impressions of the work? Use specific references to the text to help make this a meaningful response)
- E. Direct Quotations (please provide page numbers) \*\*You should find 5-10 direct quotations that you found particularly powerful or insightful. You do not need to explain the quotes in text, but you should be prepared to discuss their significance with me in the first few days of school.

