



# AP English Language & Composition at SCA

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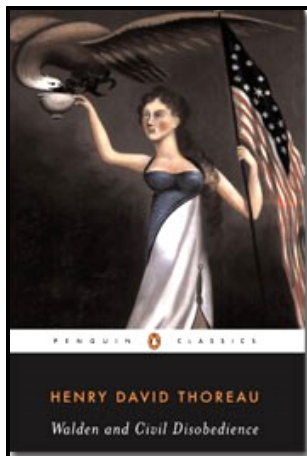
## Summer Reading List for AP English Language Comp

**AP English Language & Composition will emphasize non-fiction.** The first three books on the summer reading list are required of all students, along with the assigned writing. For the fourth book choice students are allowed to choose from a short list. With one exception, the novel *The Scarlet Letter*, each of these four books is non-fiction. The course, itself, will contain fiction works, short stories, poems and plays, as well as non-fiction.

**Wind, Sand and Stars** is a translation from the French by the author of the famous children's fable, *The Little Prince* (Le Petit Prince).

**Walden** by Henry David Thoreau. The book is based on Thoreau's experiment in living on Walden Pond for over a year, what he learned from nature, and what he learned about himself and his fellow man.

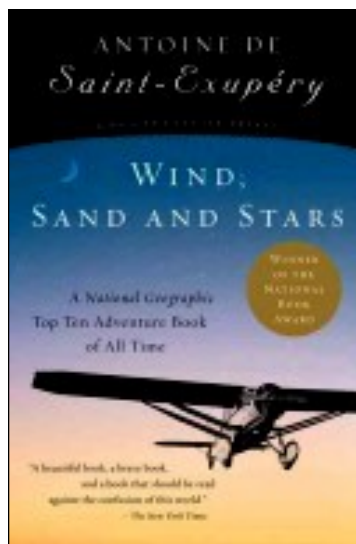
Any of these four texts may be found in any public library and most are available to download.



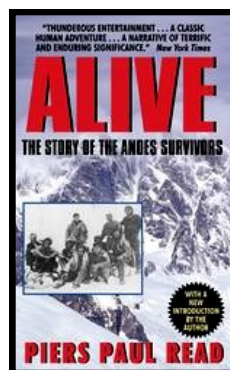
Walden writing assignment:

Write an essay (2 pages, double-spaced, minimum): choose a quotation from *Walden*, a phrase, sentence, or a longer passage, and discuss the idea(s) presented by Thoreau and the ways or methods he uses to express his ideas in the quotation and in the surrounding context.

St. Exupéry's book is based on his experiences as an *Aéropostale* pilot. See



page 2 of this newsletter for the *Wind, Sand and Stars* writing assignment.



Writing assignment for *Alive*, by Piers Paul Read: Write a persuasive essay in which you deal with the moral dilemmas faced by the survivors of this plane crash. Do you agree or disagree with their actions and their justification for these actions? Take a side, using text-specifics to state your views. (approximately 2 pages, double-spaced)

## Make a Fourth Choice from This List of Thoughtful Books:

*Death Be Not Proud* by John Gunther, Sr. The author's only son, a promising 17-year-old prep school student bound for Harvard, is stricken with a brain tumor. How does he cope?

*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, literally the last message left behind by a young professor.

*Night* by Elie Wiesel, the story of

a survivor of a Nazi death camp.

*Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliott, written by the widow of one of five martyred American missionaries.

*Alive* is the true story of the survivors of a plane crash in the Andes, including the Uruguayan national rugby team.

## The Year's Thematic Units

**.SUMMER READING  
.POWER OF THE WORD**

**.THE EXAMINED LIFE  
.INDIVIDUAL V SOCIETY**

**.A LIBERAL EDUCATION  
.THE JAUNDICED EYE**

SEMESTER EXAM

**.QUEST FOR FREEDOM  
AND JUSTICE**

**.AGE OF EXPATRIOTS  
.FACT OR FICTION?**

**.TIME AND ETERNITY  
AP EXAM**

## Written Work Format

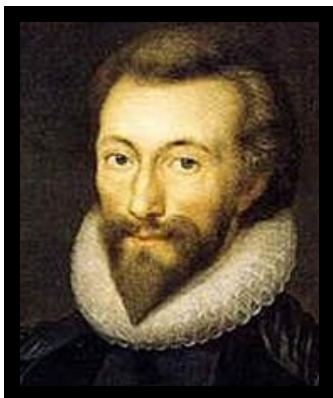
- MLA STYLE
- THESIS STATEMENT IN FIRST PARAGRAPH
- FOLLOW AN OUTLINE
- STRONG INTRO AND CONCLUSION
- EACH PARAGRAPH SETS FORTH A POINT
- GENERALIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY TEXT-SPECIFICS AND DIRECT QUOTES, WHERE APPROPRIATE.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry  
Terre des hommes



French edition of  
St. Exupéry book

*"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away."*  
- Thoreau, Walden, or Life in the Woods



Portrait of 17th Century Metaphysical poet, John Donne (pronounced "done")

## Wind, Sand and Stars—by Antoine de St. Exupéry

A characteristic of this non-fiction work is that it reads like a novel. Why is this so? Is it really necessary to make such a strong division between "fiction" and "non-fiction"? From your reading of this book, write a well-developed essay of at least two pages, double-spaced, in which you discuss the artistic qualities of St. Exupéry's writing. Focus on these three areas:

1. the book's structure or organization
2. The use of conscious literary devices, such as simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, etc.

3. The author's style, in terms of his use of language (note his diction and syntax) .

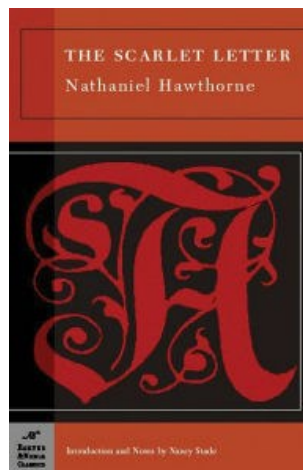
### Suggestions:

Use any good literary handbook to help you if you do not know the meaning of the above terms.

Be sure to use specific references to the text (not just page numbers), including quotes.

Have a single thesis statement early in your essay and develop your thesis throughout your paper.

**Caution: Do not plagiarize—be sure to give credit when quoting ideas, quoting either directly or indirectly. A Google® search will disclose any inappropriate borrowing without giving credit. Students who plagiarize will be penalized by loss of credit, so please use good judgment.**



## The Scarlet Letter by Hawthorne

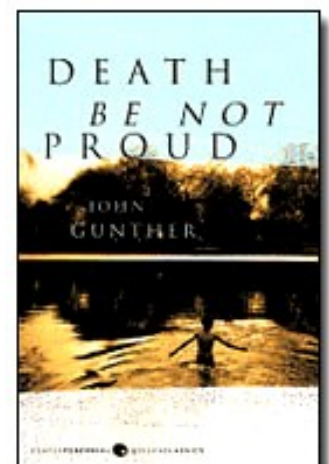
This novel is considered to be one of the three or four greatest classics of American literature. As you read this book note the chapter structure, especially the scenes featuring the scaffold in the center of the village. Write a **two page essay, double-spaced**, in which you discuss the times this scaffold is featured in the novel, what happens at each time, and what you believe Hawthorne is trying to accomplish in his use of this location.

## Death Be Not Proud—by John John Gunther, Sr.

If you choose this book, your essay assignment will be to write a critique or critical review of the book. The writer states one of his main purposes in writing is to offer solace or comfort to families who are going through the same experience (i.e.—the terminal illness of a loved one, especially one who dies young). From that point of view you may judge the book on how well you think the author fulfills his goal.

"Death be not proud,  
For some hath called thee  
mighty and dreadful, but thou  
art not so"

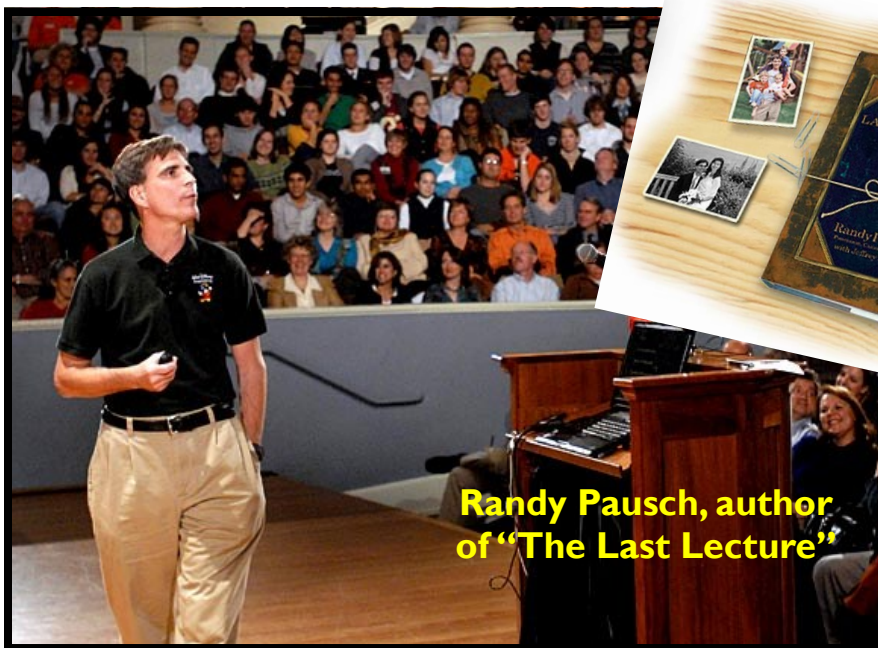
- from the sonnet by 17th Century English writer, John Donne
- This is the source of John Gunther's title (an example of literary allusion)





## The Last Lecture—by Randy Pausch

For this book choice your writing assignment is to use Pausch's idea as a starting point, then write your own last lecture. That is, take the hypothetical position you only had a few weeks to live. What would you say to those left behind? Pick a target audience (or audiences), which could include your own family, your friends, members of your church or youth group, other students at school, even people out in the world. Would your message be the same to all of them? Would you spend time evaluating your own life or dwell on advice for others? It's up to you.



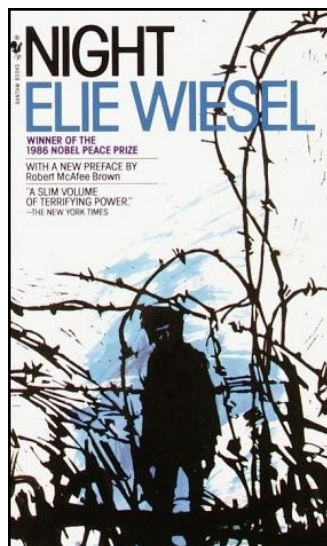
**Randy Pausch, author of "The Last Lecture"**

## Night—by Elie Wiesel

This man's story is true and is his own experience. Taking the facts of the book, examine the way in which various characters, including the author, responded to the horrors of concentration camp life. Imagine you are writing a letter in which you comment on their experience and how you would encourage them that, in spite of what they have experienced, there is still much to be grateful for in his life.



**Anne Frank, who did not survive the Nazi concentration camp.**



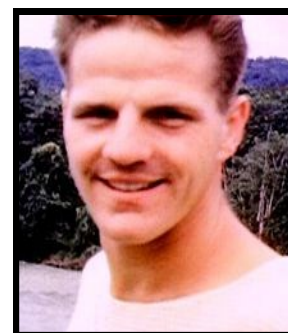
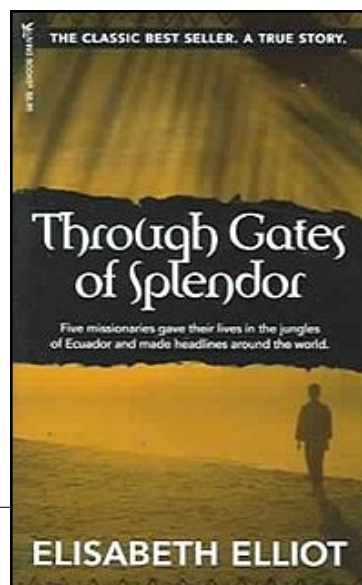
**"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."**

**- Jim Elliot  
Killed by Auca  
tribesmen in Ecuador,  
1956**

## Through Gates of Splendor—by Elisabeth Elliot

Imagine you are the grown-up child of one of these five American missionaries who were martyred trying to bring the gospel to a "Stone Age" tribe in Ecuador. Your father was killed when you were little. Suppose you were to return to the scene of the deaths. Write a journal (at least half-a-dozen entries) in which you discuss your feelings on returning to the scene. (Hint: you are welcome to follow "The

Rest of the Story," if you wish to consult other accounts of what happened after this book was written. One book, The End of the Spear, and a feature-length film, do tell the story of one of the children of the slain missionaries). You may also use an online journal format, or carry on an e-mail dialog with another person about your reactions to returning to the scene many years later.



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Make friends with  
writers and books.  
Photo: Jane Austen  
and friends in Bath  
England, 2009.

**Summary:**

1. essay on  
*Walden*
2. Essay on  
*Wind, Sand  
and Stars*
3. Essay on  
*Scarlet Letter*

*And...*

**4. Writing assignment on  
one of these five books:**

- .Alive*
- .Death be not  
Proud*
- .The Last Lecture*
- .Night*
- .Through Gates  
Of Splendor*



Be sure to proofread your text