

**AP Language and Composition: Rhetorical Strategies and Summer Assignment
(AP ENGLISH 11)**

Miss Lowry

Due: Second Day of School

Assignment: Select two works from the list on the following pages; **you must choose books from two different categories.** Then, use the list of rhetorical devices and literary terms below as you read through. Highlight and identify 20 different devices in each book (you can overlap between works, i.e. active voice in both). Then, TYPE out all strategies using the following format:

Book Name
Rhetorical Strategy
Page Number(s)
Quote
Explanation of Context (What is happening at this point in the book)
Purpose of the strategy
Why is this strategy effective or ineffective in relation to the purpose?

Note: The items above need not be in complete sentences EXCEPT for the purpose and why portions.

These terms will be used throughout the year, and you will also be responsible for them on your first test. Please be sure to print them off and have them in your binder.

Important note about the books: Each book has a particular point of view, voice, and relationship to its content. This is a college level class, and each text is found on various AP Language syllabi. I have vetted each text, but there may occasionally be some adult material (crime, language, etc.) in the work; please be mindful when selecting your text if any of these things may upset you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me (alowry@benedictinecollegeprep.org).

Glossary of Literary and Rhetorical Devices

Active Voice - The subject of the sentence performs the action. This is a more direct and preferred style of writing in most cases. "Anthony drove while Toni searched for the house." The opposite is passive voice – when the subject of the sentence receives the action. "The car was driven by Anthony." Passive voice is often overused, resulting in lifeless writing. When possible, try to use active voice.

Allusion - An indirect reference to something (usually a literary text, although it can be other things commonly known, such as plays, songs, historical events) with which the reader is supposed to be familiar.

Alter-ego – A character that is used by the author to speak the author's own thoughts; when an author speaks directly to the audience through a character. In Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest*, Shakespeare talks to his audience about his own upcoming retirement, through the main character in the play, Prospero. Do not confuse with persona.

Anecdote - A brief recounting of a relevant episode. Anecdotes are often inserted into fictional or non-fictional texts as a way of developing a point or injecting humor.

Antecedent - The word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun. The AP language exam occasionally asks for the antecedent of a given pronoun in a long, complex sentence or in a group of sentences. "If I could command the wealth of all the world by lifting my finger, I would not pay such a price for it." An AP question might read: "What is the antecedent for "it"?"

Classicism – Art or literature characterized by a realistic view of people and the world; sticks to traditional themes and structures (see romanticism).

Comic relief – when a humorous scene is inserted into a serious story, in order to lighten the mood somewhat. The "gatekeeper scene" in *Macbeth* is an example of comic relief.

Diction - Word choice, particularly as an element of style. Different types of words have significant effects on meaning. An essay written in academic diction would be much less colorful, but perhaps more precise than street slang. You should be able to describe an author's diction. You SHOULD NOT write in your thesis, "The author uses diction...". This is essentially saying, "The author uses words to write." (Duh.) Instead, describe the type of diction (for example, formal or informal, ornate or plain).

Colloquial - Ordinary or familiar type of conversation. A "colloquialism" is a common or familiar type of saying, similar to an adage or an aphorism.

Connotation - Rather than the dictionary definition (denotation), the associations suggested by a word. Implied meaning rather than literal meaning. (For example, "policeman," "cop," and "The Man" all denote the same literal meaning of police officer, but each has a different connotation.)

Denotation - The literal, explicit meaning of a word, without its connotations.

Jargon – The diction used by a group which practices a similar profession or activity. Lawyers speak using particular jargon, as do soccer players.

Vernacular - 1. Language or dialect of a particular country. 2. Language or dialect of a regional clan or group. 3. Plain everyday speech

Didactic - A term used to describe fiction, nonfiction or poetry that teaches a specific lesson or moral or provides a model of correct behavior or thinking.

Adage – A folk saying with a lesson. “A rolling stone gathers no moss.” Similar to aphorism and colloquialism.

Allegory - A story, fictional or non fictional, in which characters, things, and events represent qualities or concepts. The interaction of these characters, things, and events is meant to reveal an abstraction or a truth. Animal Farm, by George Orwell, is an allegory.

Aphorism - A terse statement which expresses a general truth or moral principle. An aphorism can be a memorable summation of the author's point. Ben Franklin wrote many of these in Poor Richard's Almanac, such as “God helps them that help themselves,” and “A watched pot never boils.”

Ellipsis - The deliberate omission of a word or phrase from prose done for effect by the author. “The whole day, rain, torrents of rain.” The term ellipsis is related to ellipse, which is the three periods used to show omitted text in a quotation.

Euphemism - A more agreeable or less offensive substitute for generally unpleasant words or concepts. Sometimes they are used for political correctness. “Physically challenged,” in place of “crippled.” Sometimes a euphemism is used to exaggerate correctness to add humor. “Vertically challenged” in place of “short.”

Figurative Language - “Figurative Language” is the opposite of “Literal Language.” Literal language is writing that makes complete sense when you take it at face value. “Figurative Language” is the opposite: writing that is not meant to be taken literally.

Analogy - An analogy is a comparison of one pair of variables to a parallel set of variables. When a writer uses an analogy, he or she argues that the relationship between the first pair of variables is the same as the relationship between the second pair of variables. “America is to the world as the hippo is to the jungle.” Similes and metaphors are sometimes also analogies.

Hyperbole: Exaggeration.
“My mother will kill me if I am late.”

Idiom: A common, often used expression that doesn't make sense if you take it literally.
“I got chewed out by my coach.”

Metaphor: Making an implied comparison, not using “like,” “as,” or other such words. “My feet are popsicles.” An extended metaphor is when the metaphor is continued later in the written work. If I continued to call my feet “my popsicles” in later paragraphs, that would be an extended metaphor. A particularly elaborate extended metaphor is called using conceit.

Metonymy – Replacing an actual word or idea, with a related word or concept. “Relations between London and Washington have been strained,” does not literally mean relations between the two cities, but between the leaders of The United States and England. Metonymy is often used with body parts: “I could not understand his tongue,” means his language or his speech.

Synecdoche – A kind of metonymy when a whole is represented by naming one of its parts, or vice versa.

“The cattle rancher owned 500 head.”

“Check out my new wheels.”

Simile: Using words such as “like” or “as” to make a direct comparison between two very different things. “My feet are so cold they feel like popsicles.”

Synesthesia – a description involving a “crossing of the senses.”

Examples: “A purplish scent filled the room.”

“I was deafened by his brightly-colored clothing.”

Personification: Giving human-like qualities to something that is not human.

“The tired old truck groaned as it inched up the hill.”

Foreshadowing – When an author gives hints about what will occur later in a story.

Genre - The major category into which a literary work fits. The basic divisions of literature are prose, poetry, and drama. However, genres can be subdivided as well (poetry can be classified into lyric, dramatic, narrative, etc.). The AP Language exam deals primarily with the following genres: autobiography, biography, diaries, criticism, essays, and journalistic, political, scientific, and nature writing.

Gothic – Writing characterized by gloom, mystery, fear and/or death. Also refers to an architectural style of the middle ages, often seen in cathedrals of this period.

Imagery - Word or words that create a picture in the reader's mind. Usually this involves the five senses. Authors often use imagery in conjunction with metaphors, similes, or figures of speech.

Invective – A long, emotionally violent, attack using strong, abusive language.

Irony - When the opposite of what you expect to happen does.

Verbal irony - When you say something and mean the opposite/something different. For example, if your gym teacher wants you to run a mile in eight minutes or faster, but calls it a "walk in the park" it would be verbal irony. If your voice tone is bitter, it's called sarcasm.

Dramatic irony - When the audience of a drama, play, movie, etc. knows something that the character doesn't and would be surprised to find out. For example, in many horror movies, we (the audience) know who the killer is, which the victim-to-be has no idea who is doing the slaying. Sometimes the character trusts the killer completely when (ironically) he/she shouldn't.

Situational irony - Found in the plot (or story line) of a book, story, or movie. Sometimes it makes you laugh because it's funny how things turn out. (For example, Johnny spent two hours planning on sneaking into the movie theater and missed the movie. When he finally did manage to sneak inside he found out that kids were admitted free that day).

Juxtaposition - Placing things side by side for the purposes of comparison. Authors often use juxtaposition of ideas or examples in order to make a point. (For example, an author may juxtapose the average day of a typical American with that of someone in the third world in order to make a point of social commentary).

Mood - The atmosphere created by the literature and accomplished through word choice (diction). Syntax is often a creator of mood since word order, sentence length and strength and complexity also affect pacing and therefore mood. Setting, tone, and events can all affect the mood.

Motif – a recurring idea in a piece of literature. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the idea that “you never really understand another person until you consider things from his or her point of view” is a motif, because the idea is brought up several times over the course of the novel.

Oxymoron – When apparently contradictory terms are grouped together and suggest a paradox – “wise fool,” “eloquent silence,” “jumbo shrimp.”

Pacing – The speed or tempo of an author’s writing. Writers can use a variety of devices (syntax, polysyndeton, anaphora, meter) to change the pacing of their words. An author’s pacing can be fast, sluggish, stabbing, vibrato, staccato, measured, etc.

Paradox - A seemingly contradictory situation which is actually true. “You can't get a job without experience, and you can't get experience without getting a job.”

Parallelism – (Also known as parallel structure or balanced sentences.) Sentence construction which places equal grammatical constructions near each other, or repeats identical grammatical patterns. Parallelism is used to add emphasis, organization, or sometimes pacing to writing. “Cinderella swept the floor, dusted the mantle, and beat the rugs.”

Anaphora - Repetition of a word, phrase, or clause at the beginning of two or more sentences or clauses in a row. This is a deliberate form of repetition and helps make the writer's point more coherent. “I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Chiasmus – When the same words are used twice in succession, but the second time, the order of the words is reversed. “Fair is foul and foul is fair.”
“When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”
Also called antimetabole.

Antithesis - Two opposite or contrasting words, phrases, or clauses, or even ideas, with parallel structure. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”

Zuegma (Syllepsis) - When a single word governs or modifies two or more other words, and the meaning of the first word must change for each of the

other words it governs or modifies. "The butler killed the lights, and then the mistress." "I quickly dressed myself and the salad."

Parenthetical Idea - Parentheses are used to set off an idea from the rest of the sentence. It is almost considered an aside...a whisper, and should be used sparingly for effect, rather than repeatedly. Parentheses can also be used to set off dates and numbers. "In a short time (and the time is getting shorter by the gallon) America will be out of oil."

Parody - An exaggerated imitation of a serious work for humorous purposes. It borrows words or phrases from an original, and pokes fun at it. This is also a form of allusion, since it is referencing a previous text, event, etc. The Simpsons often parody Shakespeare plays. Saturday Night Live also parodies famous persons and events. Do not confuse with satire.

Persona - The fictional mask or narrator that tells a story. Do not confuse with alter-ego.

Poetic device – A device used in poetry to manipulate the sound of words, sentences or lines.

Alliteration

The repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of words.

"Sally sells sea shells by the sea shore"

Assonance

The repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds.

"From the molten-golden notes"

Consonance

The repetition of the same consonant sound at the end of words or within words.

"Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door"

Onomatopoeia

The use of a word which imitates or suggests the sound that the thing makes.

Snap, rustle, boom, murmur

Internal rhyme

When a line of poetry contains a rhyme within a single line.

"To the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!"

Slant Rhyme

When a poet creates a rhyme, but the two words do not rhyme exactly – they are merely similar.

"I sat upon a stone, / And found my life has gone."

End rhyme

When the last word of two different lines of poetry rhyme.

"Roses are red, violets are blue, / Sugar is sweet, and so are you."

Rhyme Scheme

The pattern of a poem's end rhymes. For example, the following lines have a rhyme scheme of ababcbcd:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? a
Thou art more lovely and more temperate. b
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May. a
And summer's lease hath all too short a date. b
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines c
And often is his gold complexion dimmed d
And every fair from fair sometime declines c
By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed d

Stressed and unstressed syllables

In every word of more than one syllable, one of the syllables is stressed, or said with more force than the other syllable(s). In the name "Nathan," the first syllable is stressed. In the word "unhappiness," the second of the four syllables is stressed.

Meter

A regular pattern to the syllables in lines of poetry.

Free verse

Poetry that doesn't have much meter or rhyme.

Iambic pentameter

Poetry that is written in lines of 10 syllables, alternating stressed and unstressed syllables. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

Sonnet

A 14-line poem written in iambic pentameter. Usually divided into three quatrains and a couplet.

Polysyndeton – When a writer creates a list of items which are all separated by conjunctions. Normally, a conjunction is used only before the last item in a list. Examples of polysyndeton: "I walked the dog, and fed the cat, and milked the cows." "Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcass of an unclean beast, or a carcass of unclean cattle, or the carcass of unclean creeping things...he also shall be unclean." Polysyndeton is often used to slow down the pace of the writing and/or add an authoritative tone.

Pun – When a word that has two or more meanings is used in a humorous way. "My dog has a fur coat and pants!" "I was stirred by his cooking lesson."

Slant rhyme

Rhetoric - The art of effective communication.

Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle- The relationships, in any piece of writing, between the writer, the audience, and the subject. All analysis of writing is essentially an analysis of the relationships between the points on the triangle.

Rhetorical Question - Question not asked for information but for effect. "The angry parent asked the child, 'Are you finished interrupting me?'" In this case, the parent does not expect a reply, but simply wants to draw the child's attention to the rudeness of interrupting.

Romanticism – Art or literature characterized by an idealistic, perhaps unrealistic view of people and the world, and an emphasis on nature. Does not rely on traditional themes and structures (see classicism).

Sarcasm - A generally bitter comment that is ironically or satirically worded. However, not all satire and irony are sarcastic. It is the bitter, mocking tone that separates sarcasm from mere verbal irony or satire.

Satire - A work that reveals a critical attitude toward some element of life to a humorous effect. It targets human vices and follies, or social institutions and conventions. Good satire usually has three layers: serious on the surface; humorous when you discover that it is satire instead of reality; and serious when you discern the underlying point of the author.

Sentence - A sentence is group of words (including subject and verb) that expresses a complete thought.

Appositive - A word or group of words placed beside a noun or noun substitute to supplement its meaning. "Bob, the lumber yard worker, spoke with Judy, an accountant from the city."

Clause - A grammatical unit that contains both a subject and a verb. An independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. A dependent, or subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a sentence and must be accompanied by an independent clause. (Example: "Other than baseball, football is my favorite sport." In this sentence, the independent clause is "football is my favorite sport" and the dependent clause is "Other than baseball.")

Sentence structures:

Balanced sentence – A sentence in which two parallel elements are set off against each other like equal weights on a scale. Both parts are parallel grammatically. "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich." Also called parallelism.

Compound sentence - Contains at least two independent clauses but no dependent clauses.

Complex sentence - Contains only one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

Cumulative sentence – (also called a loose sentence) When the writer begins with an independent clause, then adds subordinate elements. "He doubted whether he could ever again appear before an audience, his confidence broken, his limbs shaking, his collar wet with perspiration." The opposite construction is called a periodic sentence.

Periodic sentence - When the main idea is not completed until the end of the sentence. The writer begins with subordinate elements and postpones the main

clause. "His confidence broken, his limbs shaking, his collar wet with perspiration, he doubted whether he could ever again appear before an audience." The opposite construction is called a cumulative sentence.

Simple sentence - Contains only one independent clause.

Sentence types:

Declarative sentence - States an idea. It does not give a command or request, nor does it ask a question.

"The ball is round."

Imperative sentence - Issues a command.

"Kick the ball."

Interrogative sentence - Sentences incorporating interrogative pronouns (what, which, who, whom, and whose).

"To whom did you kick the ball?"

Style - The choices in diction, tone, and syntax that a writer makes. Style may be conscious or unconscious.

Symbol - Anything that represents or stands for something else. Usually a symbol is something concrete such as an object, actions, character...that represents something more abstract. Examples of symbols include the Whale in Moby Dick, the river and the jungle in Heart of Darkness, and the Raven in "The Raven."

Syntax/sentence variety - Grammatical arrangement of words. This is perhaps one of the most difficult concepts to master. First, a reader should examine the length of sentences (short or long). How does sentence length and structure relate to tone and meaning. Are they simple, compound, compound-complex sentences? How do they relate to one another? Syntax is the grouping of words, while diction refers to the selection of individual words.

Theme - The central idea or message of a work. The theme may be directly stated in nonfiction works, although not necessarily. It is rarely stated directly in fiction.

Thesis - The sentence or groups of sentences that directly expresses the author's opinion, purpose, meaning, or proposition. It should be short and clear. (also see argument)

Tone - A writer's attitude toward his subject matter revealed through diction, figurative language and organization. To identify tone, consider how the piece would sound if read aloud (or how the author wanted it to sound aloud). Tone can be: playful, serious, businesslike, sarcastic, humorous, formal, somber, etc.

Understatement - The ironic minimizing of fact, understatement presents something as less significant than it is. The effect can frequently be humorous. "Our defense played valiantly, and held the other team to merely eight touchdowns in the first quarter."

Litotes - a particular form of understatement, generated by denying the opposite of the statement which otherwise would be used. Depending on the tone and context of the usage, litotes either retains the effect of understatement (Hitting that telephone pole certainly didn't do your car any good) or becomes an intensifying expression (The flavors of the mushrooms, herbs, and spices combine to make the dish not at all disagreeable).

The best website for literary/rhetorical devices: <http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/>

2019 AP English Language and Composition Nonfiction Reading List

ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH ISSUES

Title	Author	Description
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America	Thomas L. Friedman	Explores the decline of our planet because of global warming and overcrowding and offers solutions to the downward trend. Pulitzer Prize winning author.
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle	Barbara Kingsolver	One family's quest to "live off the land" in modern America
Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us	Michael Moss	An investigative report that links the rise in obesity in America with the rise of the processed foods industry
Any nonfiction book (The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto, Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation)	Michael Pollan	Author asks interesting questions about food, where it comes from, how its history affects our lives, and how it becomes sustenance for our lives
Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All- American Meal	Eric Schlosser	An exploration of the history of fast food, the impact it has had on our lives, and the myths we should forget about it
The World Without Us	Alan Weisman	A simple concept of imagining the Earth without human beings offers an intriguing way to explore our impact on the planet

SCIENCE / MEDICINE (Especially appealing for students who are science oriented or interested in the medical field)

Title	Author	Description
Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife	Eben Alexander	Dr. Alexander's story of an illness and a near-death experience that changed this skeptic's philosophy of health
Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness	Susannah Cahalan	A twenty-two-year-old reporter's memoir of suffering from a rare brain disease that opened research in the medical community
Surgeon!: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Doctor	Dr. Richard Caleel	A must read for anyone interested in the medical profession
The Emperor of All Maladies	Siddhartha Mukherjee	The "biography" of cancer and its treatment for over a thousand years
Any nonfiction book (Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal; Spook: Science Tackles the After-life; Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers)	Mary Roach	#1 best-selling author who asks questions we would rarely ask in a scientific way about our digestive system, ghosts, and dead bodies
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales	Oliver Sacks	Recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Skloot	The story of a poor Southern tobacco farmer's wife whose cells—taken without her knowledge—became the first "immortal cells" in history. They are still alive today and have been used in numerous experiments since her death over 60 years ago.

GENERAL NONFICTION

Title	Author	Description
Power Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports	John M. Barry	An examination of the causes and effects of the pursuit of power in the arenas of the media, politics, and even college football. Award winning and NYT Best-selling author.
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking	Susan Cain	Real-life examples that could change the way we see quiet members of our society
Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America	Barbara Ehrenreich	One woman's story of attempting to survive on minimum wage
How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization	Franklin Foer	A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.
Any nonfiction book (Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking; David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants; Outliers: The Story of Success; The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference)	Malcolm Gladwell	#1 best-selling author explores dynamics of our world in new ways
Give and Take: A Revolutionary Approach to Success	Adam M. Grant	Instead of focusing on the qualities of the successful, this book investigates relationships and networking's influence on a person's success.

<p>unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation</p>	<p>Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson</p>	<p>Guide to seeing through 21st century media spin by the founders of FactCheck.org</p>
<p>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything OR Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance</p>	<p>Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner</p>	<p>Intriguing, easily readable explorations of data that answer questions like “Why do drug dealers live with their moms?” and “Do parents really matter?” Second volume asks new questions, such as “Are people hardwired for altruism or selfishness?”</p>
<p>Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong</p>	<p>James W. Loewen</p>	<p>One history professor’s attempt to correct mistakes and misconceptions he found in several high school American history textbooks. Winner of American Book Award.</p>
<p>Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business</p>	<p>Neil Postman</p>	<p>An investigation of the television’s effect on American culture</p>
<p>The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids</p>	<p>Alexandra Robbins</p>	<p>An exploration of how our current educational climate of high-stakes testing and pressure to achieve affects students</p>
<p>Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market</p>	<p>Eric Schlosser</p>	<p>An exploration of underground drug trade and its surprising parallels to big business</p>
<p>Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail</p>	<p>Cheryl Strayed</p>	<p>Memoir of the author’s 1100-mile hike following a difficult time in her life</p>

A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Ron Suskind	A young man's journey from the slums of DC to Brown University
One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School	Scott Turow	The author's compelling experiences of being indoctrinated at America's most prestigious law school
The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women	Naomi Wolf	A bestselling classic about the obsession with physical perfection
Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard	Liz Murray	Liz Murray, who was homeless at the age of fifteen and had drug-addicted parents, reflects on how she overcame obstacles and eventually attended Harvard University.
This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women	Jay Allison	A collection of eighty essays exploring the personal beliefs of a diverse assortment of contributors, both famous and unknown, includes selections from such notables as Isabel Allende, Colin Powell, John Updike, John McCain, William F. Buckley, Rick Moody, and others who reflect on their faith, the evolution of their beliefs, and how they express them.
Catch Me If You Can	Frank Abagnale	Former con man Frank Abagnale, an authority on financial foul play, tells stories of the adventures he had while living the high life as a criminal.
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban	Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb	Memoir of Miss Upton's hero, a young Pakistani girl who was an activist for girls' education and became an enemy on the Taliban's hit list.

American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of the Iron Crotch	Matthew Polly	Growing up a ninety-eight-pound weakling tormented by bullies in the schoolyards of Kansas, Matthew Polly dreamed of one day journeying to the Shaolin Temple in China to become the toughest fighter in the world, like Caine in his favorite 1970s TV series Kung Fu. American Shaolin is the story of the two years Matthew spent in China living, studying, and performing with the Shaolin monks.
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HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS

Title	Author	Description
Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth	Reza Aslan	Detailed, thoroughly-researched biography that “challenges long-held assumptions”
Any historical account (Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America; Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State and the Birth of Liberty; The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History)	John M. Barry	Best-selling author explores highly-charged incidents in American history
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Ishmael Baeh	One young man’s experience as a child soldier during wars in Africa’s Sierra Leone.
One Summer: America, 1927	Bill Bryson	Account of an eventful season that includes Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Charles Lindbergh, and Calvin Coolidge

<p>Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August 1944</p>	<p>Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre</p>	<p>Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written</p>
<p>Columbine</p>	<p>Dave Cullen</p>	<p>10 years after the tragic events in Littleton, Colorado, asks questions about not only the shooters and victims but also the culture that surrounded such an incident.</p>
<p>Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Haguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune</p>	<p>Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr.</p>	<p>Account of a reclusive heiress that spans from the Gilded Age of the 1800s to the 21st century and a mysterious history of her family and fortune</p>
<p>Man's Search for Meaning</p>	<p>Viktor E. Frankel</p>	<p>Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. Listed in a Library of Congress survey as among top ten books that made a difference in people's lives.</p>
<p>Any nonfiction account (The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism; Team of Rivals; The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln; No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream; The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga)</p>	<p>Doris Kearns Goodwin</p>	<p>Pulitzer-prize winning author writes in-depth biographies of some of the most influential figures of 20th century America</p>

<p>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption OR Seabiscuit</p>	<p>Laura Hillenbrand</p>	<p>Unforgettable true accounts of determination and the indomitable human spirit</p>
<p>Profiles in Courage for Our Time</p>	<p>Caroline Kennedy</p>	<p>Continues the legacy her father began with the original Profiles in Courage. Includes the accounts of thirteen acts of modern political bravery.</p>
<p>In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors</p>	<p>Doug Stanton</p>	<p>Tells the story of a battle cruiser torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine shortly after delivering parts of the atom bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima; and discusses the struggles of sailors who survived the blast to stay alive in the sea for nearly five days before help arrived.</p>
<p>Any nonfiction book (Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster; Into the Wild; Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith; Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman; Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men and Mountains)</p>	<p>Jon Krakauer</p>	<p>Best-selling author writes about harrowing contemporary journeys that test the limits of humanity</p>

TRUE CRIME (Note: These selections do involve crime/murder and sensitive topics. Please be aware before selecting one.)

<p>Any nonfiction account (The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America; In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin; Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History; Thunderstruck)</p>	<p>Erik Larson</p>	<p>Exciting stories and mysteries that border on true crime</p>
<p>Any biography (American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House; Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power; Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship; American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation)</p>	<p>Jon Meacham</p>	<p>Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and editor of Newsweek magazine writes award-winning, in-depth studies of some of the</p>
<p>The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary</p>	<p>Simon Winchester</p>	<p>The interesting account of a giant undertaking and the two men most responsible for it</p>
<p>Just Mercy</p>	<p>Bryan Stevenson</p>	<p>Lawyer, Bryan Stevenson's account of one of his first cases connected to his legal practice the Equal Justice Initiative. The story of a wrongly accused man facing the death penalty.</p>

<p>Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders</p>	<p>Vincent Bugliosi</p>	<p>Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers</p>
<p>A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption</p>	<p>Dina Temple-Raston</p>	<p>Explores the aftermath of the 1998 killing of James Byrd, Jr., a black man who was chained and dragged along a country road by three white males.</p>