

# AP list of what we read this year...

(a.k.a. names to drop on the 2015 AP test!)

## **Frederick Douglass** “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave”

A chronicle of injustice suffered and observed by Frederick Douglass who concludes slavery had a negative effect on slave and slaveholder alike. “...for her to treat me as a human being was not only wrong, but dangerously so, Slavery proved as injurious to her as it did to me.”

## **Frederick Douglass** “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July”

A speech urging abolitionists to do more than just oppose slavery with words. “To him your celebration is a sham...there is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States at this hour.”

## **Francis Bacon** “The Four Idols”

A challenge to scientific investigation, this 17<sup>th</sup> century essay’s argument remains valid today.

“For what a man would rather were true, he more readily believes.”

## **Henry David Thoreau** “Civil Disobedience”

If a law is unjust, we have a moral obligation to break the law.

“If a plant cannot live according to its nature, it dies; and so a man—I was not born to be forced.”

## **Robert F. Kennedy** “Eulogy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”

A spontaneously constructed speech delivered to a largely black audience by a white presidential candidate, featuring rhetorical strategies aplenty--especially anaphora with “we” and “our” creating a steady beat of unity.

“What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness but love and wisdom, and compassion.”

## **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr** “Letter From Birmingham Jail”

In the rhetorical tradition of books of the Bible that were originally letters (e.g. Paul to the Corinthians), this letter calls upon the moral obligation of all clergymen to respond to racial and social injustice with nonviolent protests.

“I have consistently preached that nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek.”

## **Toni Morrison** *Beloved*

A fictionalized account of a woman’s escape from slavery and her nightmare of its aftermath.

“Anything coming back to life hurts.”

**Toni Morrison**                      **“When Language Dies”**

Nobel laureate acceptance speech urging us to handle language carefully  
“ We die, that might be the measure of our lives; we do language that may be the meaning of our lives.”—ain’t that antithesis? ‘tis!

**Steven Pinker**                      **“Words Don’t Mean What They Mean” from *Stuff of Thought***

An exploration of the history and current applications of indirect speech such as euphemisms, “whimperatives,” and innuendo that “sheathe our words in a politeness of doublespeak”

**Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**                      ***Farewell to Manzanar***

Non-fiction novel recounting a young Japanese-American’s girl’s story of internment and life after imprisonment in the United States.

“Much more than a remembered place, it had become a state of mind.”

**Yoshiko Uchida**                      ***Picture Bride***

Non-fiction novel recounting the story of a young woman’s turbulent journey from Japan as a picture bride to her internment in the Utah desert. It concludes with Hana telling her daughter Mary: “ We must learn to forgive and to be forgiven. I had to learn that too.”

**George Orwell**                      ***1984***

Futuristic dystopia that denounces totalitarianism—a paradox heaven!

“War is Peace.”

**Plato**                      **“The Allegory of the Cave”**

Classic allegory for the painful acceptance of reality

“When he is liberated, he will be unable to see the realities of which his former self had seen.”

**Saja Spearman**                      **“Never Satisfied” (speech)\_**

It is not life that fails to be fair, but people who fail to seek justice.”

**WHAT WE SAW & HEARD**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**                      **“The Drum Major Instinct”**

A speech employing the metaphor of a drum major to illustrate our desire to be first. Rife with rhetorical strategies, King also eerily foreshadows his own death.

“ Whoever shall be greatest shall be servant of all”

**Eugene Jarecki (director)**                      ***Why We Fight***

Through a sequence of interviews with military and political leaders, this documentary suggests that the U.S. has unknowingly become the “industrial military complex” that President Eisenhower warned.

**Jason Reitman (writer/director) *Thank You For Smoking***

A fictional but honest look at the dishonest work of Nick Naylor who argues for a living for big tobacco.

“See, Joey, that's the beauty of argument. When you argue correctly, you're never wrong.”

**Gary Weimberg and Catherine Ryan, Directors *Soldiers of Conscience: To Kill or Not to Kill? For Some, the War is Within***

A documentary about conscientious objectors, which exposes how everyone from West Point grads to new recruits question the morality of killing in war.

“ I thought I could do it as long as I didn't give into hatred.”

**Other names worth dropping...**

Aristotle..the father of logic and the classical elements of ethos, pathos, logos

Toulmin...the father of the data, warrant, claim approach to argument AND the qualified claim

Andrea Lunsford...the head of the rhetoric department at Stanford and the author of *Everything's an Argument*