I. Introduction: To foster the habit of reading, La Salle Academy requires summer reading as part of the Summer Learning Program or in preparation for particular courses. For students in Advanced Placement English: English Language and Composition, four books must be read during the summer, as listed below.

Please note that students will be held responsible for their summer reading at the very beginning of the school year by their Advanced Placement teacher and the English Department. The result will become part of the student’s first-quarter grade in English.

II. Procedure:

A. You must read all of the books listed below and write an essay on each. Essays must be typed. Be sure to submit well-secured, well-labeled pages. The essays will be evaluated according to the criteria on the back of this page.

B. While reading each book, feel free to take notes on your reading, though you need not submit these notes in the fall. After you have finished each book, write an essay of at least 800 words in which you discuss the significance of the work and one of the following literary elements:

   a. Point of view
   b. Setting
   c. Characterization
   d. Tone and Style
   e. Theme
   f. Symbols

C. If your summer essays are not completed properly, your English teacher may refuse to give you credit for your summer reading, which is a significant portion of your first-quarter mark. In addition, if you have not read all the books, you will not be able to take advantage of class discussion for the first six or seven class sessions.

AP English: English Language and Composition, Summer Reading

Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart
Natalie Goldberg, Writing Down the Bones
Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye
Peter Singer, Animal Liberation
• The essay has a clear thesis statement.

• The introduction clearly tells the reader the title and author of the book being discussed.

• Paragraphs are well-developed: supporting paragraphs are at least seven to ten sentences long.

• The writer’s ideas are supported with direct quotes (with page numbers cited) and indirect references to the text.

• The essay successfully adheres to the rules of standard written English.

• The essay discusses point of view, setting, characterization, tone and style, theme, or symbols; the essay does not summarize the plot.

• The essay reveals the writer’s style.