

Welcome to AP English Language. This is a college-level course that focuses on reading, writing, critical thinking, rhetorical analysis and argument.

Your first assignment involves reading one of the five Erik Larson texts outlined on the next page. UEHS owns several copies of *The Devil in the White City*, *Isaac's Storm*, *In the Garden of Beasts*, and *Thunderstruck*. We do not own copies of *Dead Wake* at the moment so if you select that book, you will have to purchase your own copy. Actually, you are welcome to purchase your own copy regardless of what you pick. There is a chance that I will run out of certain titles so the sooner you contact me with your selection the better.

Your task for the book is located on the last page of this packet. **Your assignment is due on the first day of school.**

Your second assignment is to hand write a letter to me. You will then send that letter to me via the US Postal Service. No typing please. Please send the letter to my school address so that it arrives no later than September 1, 2015. If you need a postage stamp, just ask me. Be sure to look up the proper etiquette for writing a letter and for addressing an envelope. You can write to me about anything, but here are a few topics in case you are having trouble getting started:

- Why are you taking this course?
- Have you already heard about the GRP or the 20% Project? If so, do you have any ideas for what you might like to pursue?
- What are your strengths as a writer? What are your weaknesses?
- Which subjects most interest you at school?
- Do you have any special interests?
- Did you or will you do anything exciting this summer?

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You can reach me over the summer via email, facebook, or Twitter. You can also access information at [www.kriegerland.net](http://www.kriegerland.net). I will be in Russia during the first half of August so it might be difficult to contact me then.

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\**The Devil in the White City* tells the story of a brutal serial killer in Chicago in the late 1800's. Parts of the book are graphic. Please do not select this book if events of this sort upset you or your parents.

	<p>September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history--and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.</p>		<p><i>In The Garden of Beasts</i> unfolds the often startling story of William E. Dodd, the first American ambassador to Nazi Germany, and his family. History professor Dodd was an unlikely choice to represent the United States in Hitler's Berlin; indeed, he was FDR's fifth choice for the post. His on-the-job education in the barbarities of the "New Germany" sometimes contrasted with that of his romantic, impressionable, party-loving daughter Martha. Larson places these very personal stories within the context of the ever-worsening events.</p>
	<p>In <i>Thunderstruck</i>, Erik Larson tells the interwoven stories of two men—Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of a seemingly supernatural means of communication—whose lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time</p>		<p>*The gripping tale about two men -- one a creative genius, the other a mass murderer -- who turned the 1893 Chicago World's Fair into their playground. Set against the dazzle of a dream city whose technological marvels presaged the coming century, this real-life drama of good and evil unfolds with all the narrative tension of a fictional thriller.</p>
	<p>Larson's latest book, a tale of the sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i>. On May 1, 1915, with WWI entering its tenth month, a luxury ocean liner as richly appointed as an English country house sailed out of New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. The passengers were surprisingly at ease, even though Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone. For months, German U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic. But the <i>Lusitania</i> was one of the era's great transatlantic "Greyhounds"—the fastest liner then in service—and her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack.</p>		

**Task:** Select and read one of Erik Larson’s texts from the above list. Larson’s books are written at a college-level and take time to read. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin your project.

Select any two of the following tasks to complete your AP English Language summer reading project.

1. Develop an extensive vocabulary list of at least 30 unfamiliar words that you encounter in the book. Your list should not include proper nouns. In other words, do not select names of places or people for your list. Arrange your words along with definitions, parts of speech, and sentences from the book in a neat manner.
2. Create a visual representation of a scene or section from your text. You must mimic the **format** of a graphic novel. Please include panels, frames, illustrations, and captions. You should create between three to five pages of content.
3. Write a one page, single-spaced literary analysis of the title of your text. Why exactly is the title appropriate for your text? Do not stop at a literal interpretation. Incorporate multiple elements or quotations from the text into your analysis.
4. Design movie credits or a Playbill in which you analyze and cast at least five individuals from your text. Which modern actors or actresses would be best suited to play these roles? Why? Which important characteristics does each character exhibit? How do the actors that you selected honor the people in the texts? Include appropriate analysis with your product.
5. Surprise me! You are an AP student now. I expect you to strive for excellence in all that you do. If you have an awesome idea for this project, pitch it to me.

Neatness and thoroughness count. You should take pride in anything that you put your name on. You don’t have to be the world’s greatest artist, but you do have to be neat and methodical.

Grading. This project is worth 100 Points.

The Letter	20 points
Book Assignment Selection (x2)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoroughness/Thoughtfulness (Did you push yourself? Did you discover new knowledge? Did you present your results in a creative, effective, or interesting way? Did you go above and beyond?)</li> </ul>	25 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neatness</li> </ul>	10 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loyalty to the text (Did you honor the text?)</li> </ul>	5 points