



## AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

This year's summer reading selections are *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee **AND** *The Sunset Limited* by Cormac McCarthy.

As you read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, keep a **Dialectic Journal** (see below for more detailed instructions). You will use this journal as a reference tool during our study of the novel in the first few weeks of school. This is not an easy novel to read, as there are sophisticated stylistic devices and a few disturbing scenes. **Some of the chapters will flat out confuse you. I fully expect this. Simply record your thoughts as you ponder. DO NOT seek the answers from SparkNotes - instead, take a stab at your own interpretation even if you think you might be wrong.** Our discussions will be much more interesting if you follow my advice in this regard!

As you read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, keep a journal of important passages that help shape your understanding of and/or questions about the text. **Your journal must be hand written.** The journal should be in two-column format where the page number and passage appear on the left and your comments appear on the right. You should have **a minimum of four entries for each of the categories below. Please bring them to class on the first day of school.**

Make indexing marks on each entry using the following codes:

**D** = development of character, conflict, or theme

**S** = symbolism

**A** = author's craft (notes related to Lee's writing style)

**Q** = question. Ask about something in the passage that is unclear.

Below is a brief illustrative example of a journal entry for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Page	Passage	Analysis/Reflection	Code
2	"Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her absence." (2)	Scout reflects on her mother, noting that she was too young to remember her when she died and looks to Calpurnia as a motherly figure.	D