

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2025-2026

Welcome! I'm looking forward to exploring the complexities of rhetoric with you this coming school year. To get us started and to bridge the gap between your previous English studies and the rigors of AP Language, you are required to complete this summer reading assignment. This assignment will introduce you to the kind of analytical thinking we will practice throughout the year.

Required Texts:

"Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan
<https://tinyurl.com/my2rum22>

"Broken English" by Anya Gallaccio
<https://tinyurl.com/3uufxpz3>

Assignment Overview:

Read Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" carefully and thoughtfully. View Anya Gallaccio's "Broken English" artwork carefully. Annotate both thoroughly, following the guidelines below. Your annotations are crucial evidence of your thinking and engagement with the texts. Be prepared to discuss these works, share your annotations, and complete a timed writing related to them during the first week of class.

Annotation Guidelines:

Annotation is more than just highlighting; it's about actively interacting with the text and recording your thoughts, questions, and observations directly on the page. Your annotations should serve as a roadmap of your critical reading process.

- Note specific descriptions of Tan's mother's English (word choice, sentence structure).
- Identify specific examples and anecdotes Tan uses to illustrate her mother's language use and how others perceived it.
- Identify rhetorical strategies Tan employs (anecdotes, contrast, shifts in tone, appeals to emotion/logic) and briefly note their purpose, especially in relation to her mother.
- Mark passages related to key ideas like forms of English, perception vs. reality, judgment based on language, family influence, the connection between language and intimacy, and the writer's purpose.
- Record your questions, points of confusion, insights, and personal reactions as you read. What seems significant?
- Define unfamiliar words or note words used in interesting or specific ways by Tan.
- How do the visual elements (materials, arrangement, colors, etc.) contribute to the artwork's meaning? What does it suggest about the relationship between language and identity?
- Note any connections you observe between "Mother Tongue" and "Broken English."

If you have any questions during the summer, please don't hesitate to reach out via email.

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