

## AP Psychology Summer Reading and Assignments

Dear Prospective AP Psychology Students:

Your interest in Psychology will lead you to a better understanding of yourself and those around you. You will be a better student and citizen. You will see people, behaviors, and disabilities in a new light. You will reframe who you are. Therefore, you will have an opportunity to live a fuller life and better engage your friends, family, coworkers, etc.

However, it will take a great deal of effort on your part to get there. Like a well trained athlete, you will have to exercise your mind everyday, making short and long term commitments to mental workouts. This work will be rigorous, requiring your endurance for the whole year and culminating in taking the AP Psychology test in May, 2010. Let me be clear, this will be a difficult course.

As AP Psychology is a college level course, it will be taught as such. This means that the onus of responsibility is on the student to teach him/herself and bring that learning in to class to use during discussions, experiments, and debates thus enhancing the overall learning experience. This experience begins now. You are expected to complete the following assignments over the summer in preparation for the course.

1. Read one book from the approved 'Summer Psyc Reading List.'
2. While you read, take notes in your double-entry journal (see journal assignment paper) on topics that you think are relevant. As you write in your journal, add your personal reflections as the 2<sup>nd</sup> entry in your journal.
3. When you've finished the book, use your journal to write a 3 page critical response to the book.
4. This assignment is due one week after the first day of class.

### AP Psychology Summer Reading List (choose 1 book):

*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

- Mentally retarded Charlie Gordon participates in an experiment which turns him into a genius but only temporarily.

*Sybil* by Flora Rhea Schreibe

- Here is the unbelievable yet true story of Sybil Dorsett, a survivor of terrible childhood abuse who as an adult was a victim of sudden and mysterious blackouts. What happened during those blackouts has made Sybil's experience one of the most famous psychological cases in the world.

*Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Jennifer Choldenko

- All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

*I Am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier

- Young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.

*Child Called It* by Dave Pelzer

- Dave Pelzer shares his unforgettable story of the many abuses he suffered at the hands of his alcoholic mother and the averted eyes of his neglectful father.

*An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness* by Kay Redfield Jamison

- First-person account of manic-depression.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon

- Christopher Boone has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbors's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his world upside down.