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AP Language & Composition
Required Summer 2018 Reading Assignment
Due Date: Monday, August 20th (first full day of school)
Point Value: (no more than 60 points)

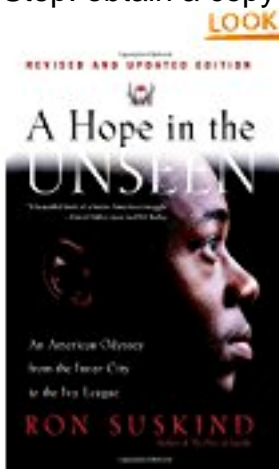
Book Title: *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind

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Welcome to AP Language and Composition - a college level, reading and writing-intensive course that focuses **primarily on nonfiction reading** that discusses politics, history, social sciences, and current events (personal essays, biographies, speeches, newspaper articles, etc.). The purpose of the summer reading assignment is to expand your experience with non-fiction texts. These assignments offer you an opportunity to establish a foundation that you will use throughout the course. Successful completion of the course and the AP exam can potentially earn college credits.

First Step: obtain a copy of this book – *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind.



ISBN-13: 978-0767901260

It is best to order the book “used” from Amazon as there are MANY copies priced at around \$5. It should also be available at local bookstores. You can also check your library; however, then you can't annotate in the book.

Reading, Annotating, and Journaling Assignment - 60 points
(Due: First Day of School, August 20st— NO Late Work accepted!!!)

- Read the entire book over the summer.
- Annotate while you are reading. You can use any method you prefer:
 - Write in the book
 - Use Stickies or Post-its

- Keep a written or typed Journal or notebook with all of your annotations, marked by chapter.
- Expectations are that you will have annotations throughout the book.
 - Strong readers keep their pen in their hand, ready to mark any thought that pops in their head while reading – a goal should be 5-6 annotations for every chapter.
- You are annotating for:
 - Anything that stands out to you as significant within the following:
 - Ideas regarding the themes of the book and what the author’s message is
 - Language – the tone, diction, phrasing, the author’s style and structure
 - Cultural connections – thoughts on how the novel comments on society
- The Annotations are valued at 10 points

Summer Dialectical Journal Assignment

Steps for Writing the Dialectical Journal:

As you read, choose 2 passages from each of the 14 chapters that stand out to you. On Microsoft Word or Google Docs, create a T-chart graphic organizer and record these in the left-hand column of the chart, including page number references. In the right column, write your response to each passage – such as ideas/insights, questions, and reflections toward the text, as noted below.

Choosing Passages from the Text (left-side of t-chart):

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking, or puzzling. Examples are below:

- Effective and/or creative use of stylistic or rhetorical techniques
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs
- Events you find surprising or confusing;
- Passages that illustrate a particular idea

Composing Responses to the Text (right side of t-chart):

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be **analytical, specific and detailed**. You can write as much as you want for each entry, but use the info and example below to help guide your choices.

- **Higher Level Responses (A or high B grade)**
 - Analyze the text for use of rhetorical techniques (tone, structure, style, imagery)
 - Focus on the author’s choices such as repetition, parallelism, sentence structure
 - Make connections between the text and larger societal issues or the author’s purpose
 - Discuss what the author is trying to do at this point and how he does it
 - Consider what this passage reveals about the meaning of the work as a whole
- **Basic Responses (C or low B grade)**
 - Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
 - Give your personal reactions to the passage
 - Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
 - Describe what it reminds you of from your own experiences
 - Write about what it makes you think or feel
 - Agree or disagree with a character or the author

<p>Make sure to PRINT the Journal out and bring it with you on the first day of school.</p>
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See the example (from a different book) on the next page.

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry
***The Things They Carried*- Tim O'Brien**

Quotes/Passages From Text	Responses
1. <i>“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”</i> (Page 2)	1. O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons why they were fighting the war.

The Journal is valued at 50 points, which breaks down as follows:

- A = 46-50 points
- B = 42-45 points
- C = 38-41 points
- D = 35-37 points

Failure to complete the summer reading assignment will result in a zero. You do not want to start the first quarter of a new school year with a failing grade, for it will be hard to recover.