



## Suggested Summer Reading For AP Language & Composition Ansbach High School

### **"Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson**

"Anyone who despairs of the individual's power to change lives has to read the story of Greg Mortenson, a homeless mountaineer who, following a 1993 climb of Pakistan's treacherous K2, was inspired by a chance encounter with impoverished mountain villagers and promised to build them a school. Over the next decade he built fifty-five schools-especially for girls-that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, *Three Cups of Tea* combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit."

### **"Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything" by Stephen Levitt**

"Levitt (economics, U. of Chicago) and writing collaborator Dubner (a writer for the New York Times and The New Yorker) dub the material in this work "freakonomics" because Levitt uses analytical tools from economics to address a range of questions that, at first glance, might seem to be far removed from the discipline of the "dismal science." They consider questions such as how to determine if teachers are aiding in students' cheating on standardized tests, the impact of information asymmetry on the operation of the Ku Klux Klan, how the organizational structure of crack gangs resemble other businesses, and the influence of parents on child development."

### **"On Writing: A Memoir of The Craft" by Stephen King**

"In this master class on the craft of writing, Stephen King reveals the origins of his vocation and shares essential habits and rules that every writer can apply. A truly unique volume, it begins with a series of telling memories from youth and the struggling years leading up to publication of King's first novel. Offering readers a fresh and often funny perspective on the formation of a writer's character, King lays out the tools of writer's craft and takes the reader through aspects of the writer's art and life, offering practical and inspiring advice on everything from plot and character to work habits and rejection. Brilliantly structured and chock-full of master's experience and advice, *On Writing* will enable the work of writers around the globe."

### **"The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother" by James McBride**

"This national bestseller tells the story of James McBride and his mother--a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and put 12 children through college."

### **"Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson" by Mitch Albom**

'Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher. Someone older who understood you when you were young and searching, who helped you see the world as a more profound place, and gave you advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of your mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you?

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college.

*Tuesdays With Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift to the world."

**"Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog" by John Grogan**

John Grogan touched our hearts with his #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Marley & Me*, the unforgettable story of a family in the making and the wondrously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.

**Independent Reading for 1st Semester**

September - "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

October - "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller

November - "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott

December - "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain

January - "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Independent Reading for 2nd Semester**

February - "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

March - "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry

April - "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tam

May - "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger