## AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2019 *Lab Girl*, Hope Jahren

Critical Approach Journals: Your journal entries will **reflect a balance between mimetic, objective, and pragmatic** approaches to literature. <u>See the model below for examples.</u>

Compose ten entries that correspond to the following sections of the book:

- "Prologue" and "Epilogue" 1 entry
- "Roots and Leaves" 3 entries
- "Wood and Knots" 3 entries
- "Flowers and Fruit" 3 entries

**M = Mimetic** – real world connection – analysis of how the text connects to the world or universal ideas. Is it accurate? Is it correct? Is it moral? Does it show how people really act?

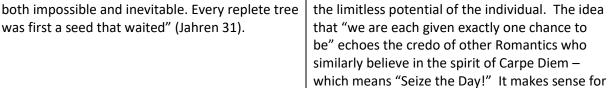
**P = Pragmatic** – the text's impact on YOU as a reader. What is the effect of the text on the reader – beneficial or harmful? Should the author be taken seriously? Why? Why not?

**O = Objective** – focuses on the language itself, style and structural analysis. How is the work put together and to what purpose?

## Passage/ Quote Approach and interpretation "A seed knows how to wait. Most seeds wait for **O=** Jahren's personification of seeds in this at least a year before starting to grow; a cherry passage demonstrate the connection between seed can wait for a hundred years with no people and plants as valuable organisms. She asserts through the clichéd image of jumping "off problem. What exactly each seed is waiting for is known only to that seed. Some unique triggerthe deep end" that seeds, like people, must take combination of temperature-moisture-light and risks to have a chance at life. The hyphenated many other things is required to convince a seed phrase "temperature-moisture-light" illustrates to jump off the deep end and take its chance—to how all three conditions must mutually take its one and only chance to grow" (Jahren contribute to optimum seed growth. The word 30). "chance" is repeated in the last sentence to emphasize how growth and life are not guaranteed. "After scientists broke open the coat of a lotus P= I love the image of this ancient lotus seed. It seed (Nelumbo nucifera) and coddled the embryo demonstrates that man's machinations are trivial into growth, they kept the empty husk. When by comparison with nature's master plan. We they radiocarbon-dated this discarded outer humans can merely hope and "wonder" and shell, they discovered that their seedling had study nature's mystery. Nature wins every time, been waiting for them within a peat bog in China eventually. for no less than two thousand years. This tiny seed had stubbornly kept up the hope of its own future while entire human civilizations rose and fell. And then one day this little plant's yearning finally burst forth within a laboratory. I wonder where it is right now" (Jahren 31). "Each beginning is the end of a waiting. We are **M=** The ideas in this passage connect to the each given exactly one chance to be. Each of us is views of the Transcendentalists, who believed in

The summer assignment is due in hard copy (NOT digital/email, etc., but printed or handwritten) to the instructor by 3pm on the first Friday in school. Extra credit is awarded for summer reading assignments submitted early. Summer assessment will occur in class with the instructor.

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Jahren to be associated with the

Transcendentalists. They loved nature, too.

**P=** The concluding idea that trees were once seeds "that waited" strikes a chord with me. It is nature's divine cycle of ends and beginnings that is natural and purposeful. I am comforted by the idea that there is purpose to change. Growth and life depends on such hope.