

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. See the model below for examples.

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 at least a year before starting to grow; a cherry seed can wait for a hundred years with no problem. What exactly each seed is waiting for is known only to that seed. Some unique trigger-combination of temperature-moisture-light and many other things is required to convince a seed to jump off the deep end and take its chance—to take its one and only chance to grow” (Jahren 30).	O= Jahren’s personification of seeds in this passage demonstrate the connection between people and plants as valuable organisms. She asserts through the clichéd image of jumping “off the deep end” that seeds, like people, must take risks to have a chance at life. The hyphenated phrase “temperature-moisture-light” illustrates how all three conditions must mutually contribute to optimum seed growth. The word “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 seed (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>) and coddled the embryo into growth, they kept the empty husk. When they radiocarbon-dated this discarded outer shell, they discovered that their seedling had been waiting for them within a peat bog in China 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).	P= I love the image of this ancient lotus seed. It demonstrates that man’s machinations are trivial by comparison with nature’s master plan. We humans can merely hope and “wonder” and study nature’s mystery. Nature wins every time, eventually.
“Each beginning is the end of a waiting. We are each given exactly one chance to be. Each of us is	M= The ideas in this passage connect to the 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.

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2019

Lab Girl, Hope Jahren

<p>both impossible and inevitable. Every replete tree was first a seed that waited” (Jahren 31).</p>	<p>the limitless potential of the individual. The idea that “we are each given exactly one chance to be” echoes the credo of other Romantics who similarly believe in the spirit of Carpe Diem – which means “Seize the Day!” It makes sense for Jahren to be associated with the Transcendentalists. They loved nature, too.</p> <p>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.</p>
--	---

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.