

Summer Reading Guidelines
AP Lang
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Required Reading

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Often considered the quintessential example of New Journalism, Truman Capote's nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood* reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farmer, his wife, and children as well as the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers.

Required Annotating (My main goal is that you will be captivated by the mesmerizing suspense and empathy you feel while reading this book; annotating should enhance your reading—not be a drudgery.)

- **On the back of the front cover of the novel**, answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Unless indicated within the question, DO NOT search for answers on the Internet. Your answers are meant to reflect YOUR thoughts/observations/ insights. We will discuss each other's annotations when we return to school in the fall, so give some thought to your answer. Your answers may be in bullet points.
 - CONTEXT - What is the novel about? Where does it take place?
 - THE AUTHOR (This answer requires some outside research.) – Who is the author? What are his unique values and beliefs?
 - THE AUDIENCE - Who is the intended audience? How do you know?
 - THE AUTHOR'S MESSAGE/PURPOSE - What is the author's goal in writing this book?
 - EXIGENCE - What events precipitated the writing of this book?
 - SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE - What is the significance of the title as it relates to the author's message/purpose?
- **Chapters/Subheadings** -
 - Think of all the names of chapters as subheadings and turn them into questions; for example, the first chapter is entitled "The Last to See Them Alive", so the question you'd write is *Who was the last to see them alive?*
 - After reading each chapter, strive to answer the question.
- **In the top margin of the book's pages**
 - Use a star or asterisk to note important moments/turning points
- **Notes and Symbols to Use As You Read**
 - Highlight key words, phrases, or sentences
 - Use a star or asterisk to emphasize the 10 to 20 most important lines
 - Use !!! when you come across something new, interesting, or surprising
 - Circle words you do not know