



## 2024 Advanced Academics Summer Study

### Pre-AP English II

Aledo ISD Advanced RLA courses are focused on College Board's Areas of Focus for English classes: **reading closely, valuing evidence, and noticing language choices.** Our Pre-AP and AP Summer Studies were designed with these focal points in mind. All students enrolled in advanced RLA courses are required to choose at least ONE text from a list of titles curated for their literary value and the author's purpose and craft evident in the text. Each course's summer study also contains a highly recommended accompanying task designed to support the reader's practice of College Board's Areas of Focus. Students will be asked to use their resulting deep understanding of texts read over the summer in classroom discussion and compositions during the first unit of instruction and throughout the 2024-25 school year.

-Staci Hammer, RLA Curriculum Coordinator, Aledo ISD

#### Text Choices-Please select ONE title from the list of three below.

**Note:** Each of the suggested texts below takes a position on the following issues:

- Survival
- Courage
- Fear
- Persistence
- Individuality

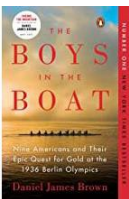
Your recommended task will ask you to track these issues in your chosen text and decide on a theme showing the author's position on each of these issues.

*\*Some of these titles may contain mature language and/or situations. Select the text with which you are most comfortable.*



#### ***Before We Were Free*, by Julia Alvarez**

From renowned author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl's struggle to be free. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind.



#### ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, by Daniel James Brown**

For readers of *Unbroken*, out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant.



#### ***Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer**

Krakauer's page-turning bestseller explores a famed missing person mystery while unraveling the larger riddles it holds: the profound pull of the American wilderness on our imagination; the allure of high-risk activities to young men of a certain cast of mind; and the complex, charged bond between fathers and sons.

**Recommended Task**-The following reading tasks will richly support your understanding of the text and allow you to prepare for using this text in classroom discussion and beginning of year composition assignments.

**Valuing Evidence**-According to College Board, Pre-AP students value textual evidence and incorporate it effectively in writing and speaking.

*In Pre-AP English, students learn the importance of sifting through and synthesizing those details to identify the evidence that supports a position or analysis. Then, once the most relevant and compelling evidence has been identified, students learn how to embed that evidence seamlessly into their written analyses, academic conversations, and oral presentations. Identifying and incorporating evidence is practiced extensively in the Pre-AP English classroom as students learn to prioritize evidence and to assess the arguments of others. --Pre-AP English 2 Course Guide*

**Directions:** For each issue (listed on first page) you will generate a thematic statement and curate key moments from your selected text to support your thematic statement.

**For example:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title of Book** \_\_\_\_\_

| Theme (what the author is saying about this topic): | Key Moment (enter text citation, with page number) | Explanation (how the key moments support your theme) |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |

**NOTE:** You may complete this task on these [Google slides](#) or on your own paper. If you need to complete your work on paper, be sure to include one row per issue, or five total.

**Once you have completed the recommended task:**

Keep this slideshow in your Google Drive. It will be a valuable resource during Unit 1 of Pre-AP English 2: *The Power of Argument*. Unit 1 covers issues such as survival and the Declaration of Human Rights and asks you to develop your own positions. You will be encouraged to incorporate evidence from your summer studies into your discussions and written work as you develop your own arguments.