

AP Language and Composition
2020/21

Students enrolled in AP Language and Composition in the fall will be reading *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote as their first book assignment. They will be providing their own texts which allows them to annotate in the book. Although students are not required to complete reading the book over the summer, we recommend that they begin reading to get a head start. The following reading notes will help with that and will eventually be assigned during class.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote is available from Amazon on Kindle for \$13.00 with a free audiobook or as a paperback for \$10.00 and used for \$5.00 and up.

In Cold Blood

In Cold Blood is the first non-fiction book that we read in AP Language and Composition in September. Students are encouraged to provide their own books and to annotate them (mark-up literary devices, important passages). Annotations are for students' convenience they will not be graded. Students will use their annotated books for seminars and for writing assignments. Students are encouraged to start reading over the summer.

The literary devices on the second page will be used for the entire year to analyze various essays so the list should be saved. The devices should be identified occasionally where present in the book. By no means attempt to find every instance of each device or even most instances, just an occasional instance.

In Cold Blood chart – Can be typed in the format shown below.

Truman Capote uses a “filmic technique when writing *In Cold Blood*. The narrative shifts from the story of the Clutters to the story of Dick and Perry like a film might follow two narrative threads.

Design and create a chart that identifies the places that the narrative shifts (include page number). Include the device Capote uses to move from the Clutters to Dick and Perry and back. The chart should include shifts in the section “The Last to See Them Alive” (3-74). The chart should contain several shifts (six or more).

Sample chart

Characters/ Location/pages	Shifts to characters/ location pages	Shift device
Herb Clutter at home Holcomb, Kansas (3-13) Eats an apple, “unaware it would be his last [day alive].	Perry at Little Jewel Café – has breakfast, root beer and aspirin	Imagery - taste Herb ate an apple, “like Mr. Clutter...Perry never drank coffee (14)
Dick in his car, outside the drugstore honks horn (17).	Nancy at home called to the phone by Kenyon.	Sound imagery – car horn, Kenyon’s voice

Literary Devices

Symbol - a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially a material object representing something abstract.

Imagery - the making of "pictures in words." Imagery appeals to the senses of taste, smell, hearing, touch, and sight.

Simile - a figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to compare two essentially different objects, actions, or attributes that share some aspect of similarity.

Metaphor - is a figure of speech that is an implied analogy in which one thing is imaginatively compared to or identified with another dissimilar thing. In a metaphor, the qualities of something are ascribed to something else, qualities that it ordinarily does not possess. For example, in *Song of Myself*, Walt Whitman's striking metaphor for *grass* is "the beautiful hair of graves."

Analogy - A comparison of similar things, often for the purpose of using something familiar to explain something unfamiliar. For example, the work of the heart is explained by comparing it to a pump.

Personification - a figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to animals, plants, inanimate objects, natural forces, or abstract ideas.

Allusion - A passing reference to historical or fictional characters, places, or events or to other works that the writer assumes the reader will recognize.

Diction- word choice. There are two basic standards by which a speaker's or writer's diction is usually judged: clarity and appropriateness. Clear diction is both precise and concrete, including a high proportion of strong verbs and verbals.

Conflict- the struggle between opposing forces that determines the action in drama and most narrative fiction. Conflict moves the plot. It can be internal or external.

Irony- the recognition of the difference between reality and appearance. Irony can be verbal or situational.