Summer reading for rising juniors (entering AP Language and Composition next fall): Please obtain a copy of *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson and read it in its entirety. Then, complete the following questions for each chapter (as with every assignment in this course, spelling, grammar, organization specificity and coherence are very important). This book may be purchased cheaply in paperback form, found at the library, or checked out from ATC through Mr. Ayers (while supplies last).

Chapter 1—How are Bryson’s expectations of the AT (Appalachian Trail) influenced by his identity as an “urban dweller?”
Chapter 2—This chapter deals with two “animals”—bears and “Katz”! Katz is clearly representative of the rise in consumption patterns among Americans, intersecting with a rise in leisure activities. How is his bag full of Snickers likely to cause a problem?
Chapter 3—How was the AT a response to the urban conditions of the early 20th century? What does Bryson learn about reading maps during his first days on the trail? How does Katz get involved in environmental degradation and resource depletion very early on?
Chapter 4—Forestry is a form of agriculture managed along the AT most often by the U.S. Forest Service. What aspects of the Forest Service’s management practices does Bryson approve and/or criticize?
Chapter 5—What geographical patterns does Bryson (a northerner) take note of during his side trip into the southern Appalachian town of Hiawassee? (Note the driving, dialect, marital customs, and food.)
Chapter 6—How do communities adjacent to the AT seem to have a “market dependence” on the resource of the trail itself?
Chapter 7—In what ways does Bryson care about the political boundaries of state lines during his hike? In what sense does he care about political boundaries such as National Park Service boundaries? Where does he notice crossing a boundary from one ecological area into another? To what extent do these boundaries share the same lines?
Chapter 8—How do you feel about Bryson’s decision to take the long cab ride to Virginia?
Chapter 9—How does Bryson’s sense of scale change when he switches from foot to automobile transportation? How does it change his perception of the region?
Chapter 10—What is Chestnut Blight and how did it change the Appalachian region?
Chapter 11—Before the creation of Shenandoah Park, humans were the dominant species in the food chain. What has taken their place since the creation of the park? What’s the most dangerous “predator” for Katz in this chapter!?
Chapter 12—How has the land-use pattern in the area now known as Shenandoah National Park changed over the past 100 years?
Chapter 13—So far in the book, what are your thoughts on Bryson (either as an individual or as an author)? Do you tend to agree with his thoughts or are you offended by him?
Chapter 14—Isn’t the story of Centralia interesting? We will discuss the wonders of the coal industry this year. Jot down your impressions of the story.
Chapter 15—What positive and negative impacts has the Army Corps of Engineers had in the Delaware Valley, in Bryson’s view?
Chapter 16—How have economic decline and out-migration (loss in population) changed the character of the rural areas of New England over the past century? What factors contributed to the economic decline and the out-migration? How does Bryson benefit from this out-migration?
Chapter 17—Is Bryson acting like an idiot in this chapter?
Chapter 18—How did changes in leisure and consumption patterns among Americans affect the landscape of the White Mountains over the past 100+ years? Given the choice yourself, say today, would you hit the beach or head for the mountains?
Chapter 19—Now that Bryson has reached Maine, recall what he experienced way back in Georgia. What are the regional differences in land use and culture?
Chapter 20—What regions along the AT are most welcoming to urban-dwelling hikers, and which is most foreboding? What factors put Maine in the latter category?
Chapter 21—Do you agree with Bryson’s final assertion that “he hiked the Appalachian Trail?” What percentage of something do you have to cover in order to say you’ve “done it?” When you get to the end of next May, how will you know you’ve “done” APES?

Summer reading for rising seniors (entering AP Literature in the fall): Please obtain a copy of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and read it in its entirety. Then, write an essay of at least five paragraphs (a maximum of ten paragraphs) describing how narrative voice, point of view and writing style contribute to the success of this novel. This book can be purchased cheaply in paperback form, can be found at the library, or checked out from ATC through Mr. Ayers.