



The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading

Teacher's Name: Mr. Derosier

School Year: 2025-2026

Grade Level: 11

Course No.: 148

Course Name: AP English Language

Academic Level (AP/Honors/CP/Archangel): AP

ASSIGNED READING

This summer, you will read ***Outliers*** by Malcolm Gladwell. In this engaging book, Gladwell takes a closer look at what really drives success, pushing beyond the usual ideas of talent and hard work. Through compelling stories and real-world research, he explores how culture, timing, and opportunity shape achievement. It is a great starting point for the kind of reading, rhetorical analysis, and discussion we will be doing in AP English Language and Composition.

ASSIGNMENT

As you read *Outliers*, be sure to annotate and take notes. These will help you engage with the book and prepare for both the Socratic Seminar and the in-class essay. Your annotations and notes should reflect your reactions to Gladwell's ideas and your analysis of how he presents them.

Tips for Success

- Do not just underline. Write thoughts, questions, and observations in the margins.
- Think critically about how Gladwell presents success differently from common cultural narratives.



- Pay attention to the structure of Gladwell's argument and how he guides the reader from one idea to the next.
- Be ready to debate or complicate (i.e., going beyond just agreeing or disagreeing) Gladwell's claims during discussion.

ASSESSMENT

You will participate in a student-led Socratic Seminar on *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. A Socratic Seminar is a student-led discussion that encourages critical thinking, active listening, and thoughtful dialogue. During the seminar, students engage in open-ended conversations based on a shared text, asking questions, responding to peers, and building on each other's ideas. The goal is not to debate or reach a single right answer, but to explore different interpretations and deepen your understanding of the text.

Please come prepared with your annotated copy of the book and any notes you have taken. Your preparation and the quality of your contributions will be factored into your assessment.

You will also write an in-class essay in response to a prompt based on Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*.

CONTACT

If you have any questions this summer, please reach out. My email address is **sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org**.