

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading 2026

OUR BOOK: *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: As you read *The Other Wes Moore*, you will actively annotate the text using **two different colors of sticky notes**. Please purchase at least two packs of sticky notes in different colors before beginning your reading.

Sticky Note Color #1: Personal Reactions and Reflections

Use one color exclusively for your own thinking about the book.

These notes should help me see how you are engaging with the story as a reader. Consider:

- Reactions to important plot events
- Opinions about decisions made by either Wes Moore
- Questions that arise while reading
- Connections to your own experiences, current events, history, literature, or other texts
- Moments that surprise, frustrate, inspire, or confuse you
- Predictions about what might happen next
- Reflections on themes such as opportunity, responsibility, family, education, identity, and choice

Strong personal comments explain *why* you are reacting in a particular way rather than simply stating that you agree or disagree.

Weak comment: "This is sad."

Stronger comment: "The other Wes's decision here is frustrating because he has already been given several opportunities to change course. This moment makes me wonder how much personal choice matters compared to environment."

Sticky Note Color #2: Rhetorical and Authorial Analysis

Use a second color exclusively for analyzing how Wes Moore constructs his message.

As AP Language students, your goal is not only to understand what happens in the memoir but also to examine how Moore tells the story and why he makes certain choices.

Focus on passages that reveal:

The Author's Purpose

- What larger message is Moore trying to communicate?
- What does he want readers to understand about fate, opportunity, responsibility, identity, or success?
- Which passages seem most important to his overall purpose?

Authorial Choices

Identify and analyze choices Moore makes, such as:

- Juxtaposition of the two Wes Moores
- Comparison and contrast
- Anecdotes and personal stories
- Characterization
- Dialogue
- Tone shifts
- Imagery and description
- Repetition of ideas or motifs
- Selection of details
- Structure and organization
- Historical or social context
- Appeals to emotion, logic, or credibility
- Reflection and commentary from the adult narrator

For each observation, explain how the choice helps Moore communicate his purpose.

Weak comment: "Good description."

Stronger comment: "Moore includes vivid details about the neighborhood so that readers can better understand the environment shaping the other Wes's decisions. The description reinforces the idea that circumstances influence opportunities."

Annotation Requirements

For **each chapter**, you must complete:

- **2 developed personal reaction annotations** (Color #1)
- **2 developed rhetorical/authorial analysis annotations** (Color #2)

Since the book contains eight chapters and an epilogue, you should have a minimum of:

- **18 personal reaction annotations**
- **18 rhetorical/authorial analysis annotations** for a total of **36 developed annotations**.

A developed annotation should:

- Reference a specific passage, event, or moment in the text.
- Move beyond summary.
- Explain your reasoning and thinking.
- Consider using words such as **because**, **so that**, and **in order to** to strengthen your analysis.

Annotations that merely summarize events or label a technique without explanation will not receive full credit.

Why We Are Doing This

Your annotations will serve as evidence of your reading and will help prepare you for our early AP Language writing assignments and discussions. Strong readers actively converse with a text; these annotations should demonstrate that conversation.

Remember: the goal is not to mark every page. The goal is to identify and analyze the moments that matter most.

I will collect your books on the first day of school. For each day that a book is late, it will lose credit.

Summer Reading Essay

During the first cycle, you will be writing an essay on a topic related to *The Other Wes Moore*. We will discuss the particulars of this essay when we convene as a class in September.