

AP English Language and Composition 2009 Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to APLAC! This summer, you will read two nonfiction texts—Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life* and C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. You must come to school armed with a working knowledge of both texts, prepared to discuss them. You must also complete the two assignments below. Complete them on separate sheets of paper, in 12-pt Times New Roman font, surrounded by 1" margins on all sides.

***This Boy's Life* – Tobias Wolff**

“Subtext” is a term that refers to the unspoken thoughts and motives of characters in a work of literature. In his memoir *This Boy's Life*, the author, Tobias Wolff, often implies a feeling, mood, or event without coming outright and saying it. **Find an example of this subtext and write one page explaining the “hidden” meaning.**

***Mere Christianity* – C.S. Lewis**

Like *This Boy's Life*, *Mere Christianity* is a nonfiction work. Unlike *This Boy's Life*, though, this book's focus is not narration, but definition, classification, and persuasion. As a prelude to our study of rhetoric in APLAC this year, choose one chapter of *Mere Christianity* that you believe is especially convincing or persuasive. **Identify the purpose of the chapter and analyze how Lewis accomplishes it.** Why does the chapter “work”? You might choose to examine word choice, sentence or paragraph structure, organization of the chapter, or anything else that contributes to its effectiveness. Write approximately one page.

Have an excellent summer!

**Ms. Hinkel and Mr. Paoelli
APLAC Teachers**