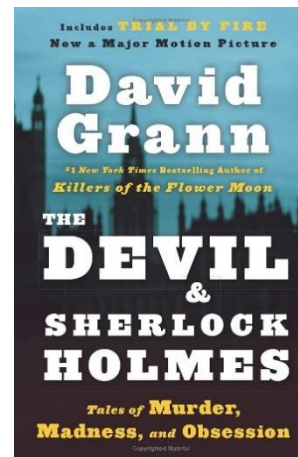


## AP LANG - Summer Assignment

Read David Grann's *The Devil and Sherlock Holmes*, a collection of non-fiction essays (you can skip reading "The Brand" and "Crimetown USA"). You should be prepared to discuss and write about the book at the beginning of the year. Expect a reading quiz on the first day of school.

[The Devil & Sherlock Holmes – David Grann](#)

ISBN-10 : 0307275906



### Instructions

In AP Language, we will write in class often if not daily. You need a notebook or journal specifically dedicated to daily writing and notes that you use for this class. In your journal, write in response to each of the following topics as you go through the book. For each response, don't worry about a particular length, word-count, or style, just **free write for 15-20 minutes at a time in response to the prompt below, or for about a page. The writing should reflect original thinking which may be expanded into an essay.** Number and title your responses and be prepared to share from and discuss your journal responses in class.

### Journal Prompts

1. In "Mysterious Circumstances," what do you think happened to Green? Why does this solution make the most sense?
2. In "Trial by Fire," which fire investigation testimony – the investigation conducted by Fogg and Vasquez, or the later investigation by Gerald Hurst—do you find to be the more credible, and why?
3. Would it be possible for an adult to surreptitiously integrate themselves into the sophomore class at Signature School, as Bourdin does? In "The Chameleon," how was Bourdin able to get away with doing this?
4. In "Which Way Did He Run?" Grann writes, "Memory is a code to who we are, a collection not simply of dates and facts but also of emotional struggles, epiphanies, and transformations." To what extent is this true of your experience? Explain.
5. In "The Squid Hunter," O'Shea undertakes a seemingly impossible task to capture a giant squid. What does O'Shea's quest to capture this animal suggest about humanity? Why do people want to understand and examine animals?
6. In "City of Water," what is Grann's perspective on the sandhogs? Why do you say this?
7. In "The Old Man and the Gun," Grann defines the 20<sup>th</sup> century "outlaw" as "a subject of romance—a 'good' bad man, he is typically a master of escape, a crack shot, a ladies' man." Does the notion of the outlaw still have the same romantic quality today? Why or why not?
8. "Stealing Time" describes Hendson's philosophy of base stealing. How might this sports advice be applicable in your life as a student?
9. In "True Crime," Grann refers to Bala's crime as being "post-modern," a philosophy defined in the essay. What does referring to the crime as post-modern seem to mean?
10. In "Giving 'The Devil' His Due," Grann sits across from a mass murderer calmly sharing drinks and talking. In the book, he has talked to a strange collection of people – killers, squid hunters, laborers, etc. – but we learn almost nothing about him. What do you think interests him about these people? What does this interest, perhaps, suggest about David Grann, the writer?