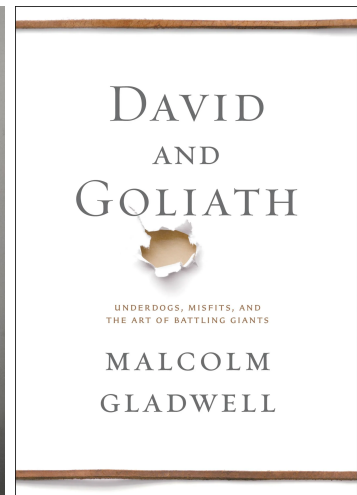
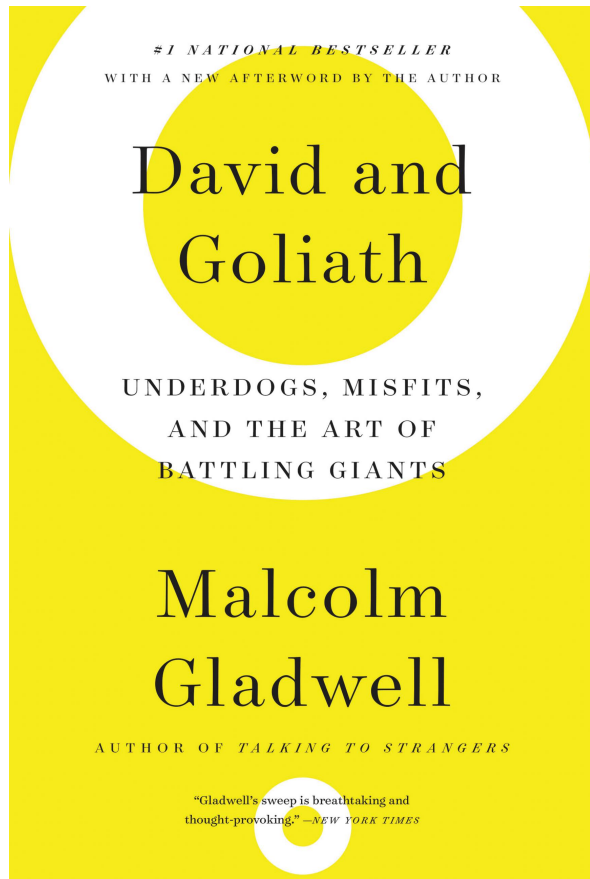


AP LANG & COMP



"Courage is not something that you already have that makes you brave when the tough times start. Courage is what you earn when you've been through the tough times and you discover they aren't so tough after all."

MALCOLM GLADWELL

David and Goliath

SUMMER HOMEWORK 2026

AP Language and Composition will focus on rhetoric and nonfiction texts — therefore, we would like you to read a nonfiction book from a best-selling author, Malcolm Gladwell, who has written for *The New Yorker* since 1996. His 2013 bestseller, ***David & Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, & the Art of Battling Giants***, presents an argument about the “power of the underdog” and how the disadvantages that make us “the Davids” can actually become the very advantages that allow us to conquer “our Goliaths.” What’s more, he challenges us to think about the disadvantages of advantages. Written in three parts — of which you will only read one part of it before we begin our year together — *David and Goliath* will be your initiation into the world of rhetoric and argument. **So, for this summer, please read the Introduction: “Goliath” (pages 3 - 15) and Part I: “The Advantages of Disadvantages (And the Disadvantages of Advantages)” (pages 17 - 96).**

As you read, we recommend you annotate for comprehension to help you remember what each chapter’s message is. Note that there is no writing assignment due. Nonetheless, you will be expected to have a concrete understanding of the assigned chapters. Also, please be ready to talk about what you’ve read.