In addition to the required summer text for upperclassmen - Matt Haig’s *The Humans* - all students taking AP English Literature in their senior year will read Viet Thanh Nguyen’s 2015 Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Sympathizer*.

[Here is the amazon.com link to the novel.](#) [Here is the author’s website.](#) Viet Thanh Nguyen is a literature professor at USC. He has published widely in fiction and non-fiction and is worth exploring further! [Here is the author’s interview on “Late Night with Seth Meyers.”](#)

You should read the *The Sympathizer* closely, carefully, and thoughtfully; moreover, you should annotate, mark passages, and take notes as you read on information that stands out to you as particularly important, surprising, or peculiar.

When we return to school in September, we will discuss *The Sympathizer* in class, and you will compose a close-reading essay on the novel. Come to the first class of the school year with your copy of the novel and your notes, passages marked, opinions to discuss, and questions to ask. These passages, opinions, and questions will be the foundation of your essay.