



2017-2018 Summer Reading Assignments

Common Read

This summer, in addition to your summer reading books for Social Studies and English, the entire high school (including all of your teachers!) will read a common book. This year the book is: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. We think this will be an enjoyable and thought-provoking book and we look forward to having discussions about it during the first few weeks of school. In order to facilitate the discussions, we ask that all students read the book and prepare **five discussion questions** (i.e. questions that do not have a simple yes/no answer) for the first day of school. Please be prepared to discuss the book, as you will be graded on your contributions to the discussion.

Social Studies

Choose *one* book and complete the following assignment by the first day of school:

- For each chapter answer the following questions:
 - What surprised or interested you in the chapter?
 - What was the thesis (argument/claim) of the chapter? Summarize the thesis in your own words and provide evidence from the chapter to support the thesis.
- What is your general impression of the book? What was the author trying to argue? Was his/her argument convincing? Why or why not? Please provide specific textual evidence to support your answer.

10th:

1. *This is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt is Shaping the Twenty-first Century* by Mark Engler and Paul Engler
2. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa* by Adam Hochschild

11th:

1. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America* by Barbara Ehrenreich
2. *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good* by Colin Woodward

12th:

1. *Consumed: How Markets Corrupt Children, Infantilize Adults, and Swallow Citizens Whole* by Benjamin R. Barber
2. *Necessary Trouble: Americans in Revolt* by Sarah Jaffe

AP US HISTORY:

A People's History of the United States (an edition after 2003) by Howard Zinn

English

Choose *one* book and complete *one* of the following assignments by the first day of school:

9th:

1. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

10th:

1. *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez
2. *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Fowles

11th:

1. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
2. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden

12th:

1. *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides
2. *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann

Assignment Choices:

Create a diary or journal in the voice of a character from your book. Follow the events of the novel and give your chosen character's impressions and reflections on those events. Be sure to go beyond the obvious. Sure, she might have been worried about getting caught when she crossed the river, but how would she write about that in a journal? What thoughts are racing through her mind? Pick this project if you feel like the book's characters really came alive for you. You must write at least 12-15 journal entries. The project should be 250-800 words (2-4 typed pages, double spaced.)

Get crafty with some cartography (that's mapmaking, FYI). Look back closely at the places that were important in the book, and illustrate a map that shows where they all are in relation to one another. Create a key in which you explain why each place is so important to the story. Select this project if you're known for your close attention to detail. Your map should be poster board size, must include at least 5 places, and must include paragraph-long explanations for the significance of each location.

Make a movie trailer featuring your book. Choose this project if you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg or M. Night Shyamalan! Your final movie should be a professional-looking 8-10 minutes long.

Create a newspaper for your book. Summarize the plot in one article, cover the weather in another, do a feature story on one of the more interesting characters in another. Include an editorial and collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. Your newspaper must include at least 5 stories and should be laid out as a newspaper.

