

2019-20 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: **The Poet X** by **Elizabeth Acevedo**. 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.

9th:

1. *Masego's Special Gift* by Eugenie Golden Kelley-Labine

10th:

1. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa* by Adam Hothschild
2. *People's History of the World: From the Stone Age to the New Millennium* by Chris Harman.

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
3. *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States* by Daniel Immerwahr

4. *A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror* by Howard Zinn, Rebecca Stefoff

12th:

Book chosen by the student and mentor for their senior thesis.

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
2. *Endangered*, Eliot Schrefer
3. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot
4. *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd

10th:

1. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
2. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz
3. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez

11th:

1. *Salvage The Bones* by Jesmyn Ward
2. *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
3. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin

12th:

1. *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith

2. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
3. *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides
4. *The Cider House Rules* by John Irving

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.