



Summer Reading List for History Grades 7-12

20130020 M/J History 7 and 2013030 M/J History 7H: US History and Honors: Beginnings To 1877

Choose one of the selections.

Blood on the River: James Town, 1607
by Elisa Carbone

Life in the Warraskoyack village is very different from life in James Town, and yet in some ways they are similar. Compare and contrast the different parts of each culture (for example: government, economics, recreation, specialization jobs, customs, religion, etc.)

Johnny Tremain
by Esther Forbes

Explain the differences between Samuel Adams and James Otis' reasons for going to war with Britain. Who do you believe Johnny is more sympathetic to and why?

My Brother Sam is Dead
By Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier

Which death or series of deaths seem to apply most to Father's saying that "In was the dead pay the debts of the living," and why?

2106010 M/J History 8 and 2106020 M/J History 8H: US History and Honors: From 1877 to the Present

Choose one of the selections.

A Farewell to Arms
By Ernest Hemingway

Do you believe that Hemingway wrote *A Farewell to Arms* to justify American involvement in World War I or to show that war is often a display of senseless violence that destroys lives? Provide three examples that support your point of view.

Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High
By Melba Pattillo Beals

What are the causes of the tensions between African-Americans and whites during the time Melba is describing? What are some of the obstacles keeping Melba and the other African-American students from attending Central High School?

The Wave
By Todd Strasser

Does the situation described in the novel have a believable chance of occurring in school today? Why or why not?

2105300 Western Civilization and 2105320 Western Civilization Honors

Choose one of the selections.

Ten Discoveries that Rewrote History
By Patrick Hunt

Compare and Contrast two of the discoveries that you read about. Which of the discoveries from the ancient world do you believe was most important to the development of western culture?

Gates of Fire
By Steven Pressfield

Describe the style of warfare that the Spartans practice. How do Spartans train for psychological warfare? What is the importance of a navy?

2109310 World History and 2109320 World History 21Honors

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

In what ways does the novel critique the romantic rhetoric of war, honor, and patriotism? How might this critique extend to nineteenth-century ideas of nationalism? Think especially about the soldiers' reaction to Kantorek's letter.

2103800 AP European History

Choose one of the books below.

A World Lit Only By Fire By William Manchester

1066: The Year of the Conquest By David Howarth

Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies by Jared Diamond

As you read, you need to take book notes. It is about taking the information in the book, then summarizing and interpreting the information. It helps to answer the following questions to write notes:

1. What is important?
2. What statements did you find interesting?
3. Were there quotes that stood out to you?
4. Do you question the historian in his assessments? Why or Why not?
5. What is the historian's argument?
6. Do sources support the historian's argument?

It can either be neatly written in a college-ruled notebook or typed.

2100310 US History

***The Narrative of the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass**

Why does Frederick Douglass want to read?

- How does he learn?
- Who helps him?
- What texts does he read and study?

What is significant about Douglass learning to read?

- What happens from learning to read?
- What does Douglass do?
- Themes, values, and actions?

2100320 US History Honors

Choose one of the selections.

***Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis* by Robert F. Kennedy**

What did Robert Kennedy think was the most important lesson of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

What were two other lessons that he learned?

***The Wave* by Todd Strasser**

Does the situation described in the novel have a believable chance of occurring in school today? Why or why not?

2100340 AP US History

Choose one of the following books.

***Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick**
***His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis**
***1776* by David McCullough**

As you read, you need to take book notes. It is about taking the information in the book, then summarizing and interpreting the information. It helps to answer the following questions to write notes:

1. What is important?
2. What statements did you find interesting?
3. Were there quotes that stood out to you?
4. Do you question the historian in his assessments? Why or Why not?
5. What is the historian's argument?
6. Do sources support the historian's argument?

It can either be neatly written in a college-ruled notebook or typed.

2106310 American Government

Choose one of the following books and complete the assignment.

***Profiles in Courage* by Robert F. Kennedy**

Choose One Senator from before 1900 and one Senator from after 1900. Write a short essay for each describing how each man defied popular opinion and did what he felt was best for his country.

***All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren**

Short Essay: As governor, Willie Stark runs his administration ferociously, using dirty tricks, blackmail, and sometimes bribery to keep his opponents in line. Are such tactics always necessary in politics, sometimes necessary in bad circumstances, or never necessary or justified? Consider today's political situation for comparison. Similar topics might include the use of media, oratory, graft, handouts, and digging up dirt.