

# Required Summer Reading for Courses (Grades 9 & 10)

## CITY OF BOSTON

*Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families* by J. Anthony Lukas is a fantastic but depressing book that looks at the effect of attempts to desegregate Boston's schools in the 1970s. Abridged reading packets will be mailed to families over the summer.

## ANCIENT HISTORY

Homer, *The Essential Iliad*, edited and translated by Stanley Lombardo (ISBN: 0872205428). (Please, no Kindle or used copies of the book as students are expected to mark up their own copies).

## MEDIEVAL WORLD HISTORY

Students taking Medieval World History next year are asked to read ONE of the following:

1. *The Arabian Nights* (ISBN: 978-0393331660) (Volume 1 only of the Husain Haddawy translation). The classic medieval Islamic work, constructed as a labyrinth of story within story, *The Arabian Nights* draws on tales from many eastern lands, and provides material in turn for the literature of medieval Europe.
2. Dante, *The Inferno* (ISBN: 0374524521) (Robert Pinsky translation). A poetic journey through the many levels of Hell, *The Inferno* (first part of Dante's *Divine Comedy*) presents an encyclopedic vision of medieval European culture. The poet Robert Pinsky chose to translate this work because he believes it to be "the best book ever written about the sadness of evil."
3. Lao-Tse, *The Tao Te Ching* (ISBN: 978-0872202320) (Stephen Addiss and Stanley Lombardo translation). The central text of Taoist philosophy, attributed to the possibly mythical Lao Tzu, this collection of terse poems exemplifies the deceptively simple ideas that lead to Taoist enlightenment.
4. D.T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (ISBN: 0582264758). An oral history, told by the griot Mamadou Kouyate, of the life of a thirteenth-century African king who united the twelve kingdoms of Mali into one of the most powerful empires of Medieval Africa.

## BIBLE-AS-HISTORY/BIBLE-AS-BIBLE

In the beginning, there was summer reading: all Bible scholars should familiarize themselves with the stories of the Book of Genesis. The teacher recommends that students read the version they will be reading in the Fall (note subtle Bible humor there): *Genesis*, translated by Robert Alter (ISBN: 9780393316704). Reading the Book of Genesis means a) reading; b) making annotations about things that strike you as interesting, and c) making a list of the different stories for later reference, and d) making a list of themes that seem to emerge from those stories, which we'll discuss in the first week. The Book of Genesis is short, but Alter's version is long because of the copious and extremely useful notes. Don't ignore them!

# Required Summer Reading for Courses (Grades 11 & 12)

## UNITED STATES HISTORY

Please read William Cronon's "ethno-ecological" history of New England: *Changes of the Land* (ISBN: 978-0809016341), but taking paper notes on copy from the library is just fine). This profound and revolutionary book explores how Native Americans transformed the environment before contact with Europeans—and how the changing economy of the 17th century led to an ecological transformation. Your teacher will email you a series of extra-credit reading questions to help you read actively, looking for the author's argument amidst the detail (a skill we'll try to practice in the coming year!) This book looks drier than it actually is—and reading actively may help you uncover the quite radical claims hidden within.

## UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865

Students in US History since 1865 will read the first 300 pages of Jill Lepore's *These Truths* (ISBN: 978-0-393-63524-9). Ms. Haber will email you summer reading questions over the summer.

## MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Students enrolled in Modern European History must read the Introduction and Part I: Life and Death (Chapters 1-4) of Tim Blanning, *The Pursuit of Glory: Europe 1648-1815* (ISBN: 978-1-1012-0245-6 for Kindle, 978-0143113898 for physical edition). The New York Times described this book as "History writing at its glorious best." You may use either a physical or a Kindle edition.

## THE WORLD SINCE 1945

Students taking World Since 1945 are required to read selected chapters of Ian Buruma, *Year Zero: A History of 1945* (ISBN: 9780143125976). Ms. Budding will email students enrolled in the class with details of the reading assignment.

## ECONOMICS

Students are required to read *Naked Economics* by Charles Wheelan (ISBN: 9780393337648). *Naked Economics* is an informal introduction to the principles of economics.

## LATIN 4

Please read books 1, 6, and 7 of *The Gallic War: Seven Commentaries on the Gallic War with an Eighth by Aulus Hirtius* by Julius Caesar, translated by Carolyn Hammond (ISBN: 978-0199540266). For a summary of the other books in this work, consult p. 232 of *Caesar: Selections from his Commentarii De Bello Gallico*, edited by Hans-Friedrich Mueller, which is also listed among the required course books.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Students taking Psychology are required to read *High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes (ISBN: 9780940322158) over the summer.