

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 (ISBN: 978-0394746166) is a fantastic but depressing book that looks at the effect of attempts to desegregate Boston's schools in the 1970s. It was not written for high school freshmen, so I recommend starting early and not worrying if you find it difficult: give it a try and get what you can out of it. The recommended sections are chapters 1-4; 8-9; pp. 167-174; chapters 12; 14-17; chapter 18 up to p. 338; chapters 21-23; 25-27; 29. Feel free to read a copy from the library; you'll get a photocopy of any sections we'll ask you to discuss more fully.

ANCIENT HISTORY

The summer reading for students entering Ancient History is Mary Renault's *Fire from Heaven: A Novel of Alexander the Great* (ISBN: 0375726829). This is a highly readable and thoroughly researched work of historical fiction. We hope that it will whet your appetite for learning more about the ancient world! As you read, please mark some points that interest, puzzle, or surprise you. Please purchase a physical book rather than Kindle.

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). 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. First volume of the Husain Haddawy translation.
2. Dante, *The Inferno* (ISBN: 0374524521). 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." Robert Pinsky translation.
3. Lao-Tse, *The Tao Te Ching* (ISBN: 978-0872202320). 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. Translation by Stephen Addiss and Stanley Lombardo.
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.

Required Summer Reading for Courses (Grades 11 & 12)

READINGS IN ETHICS

All seniors are encouraged to read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* (ISBN: 0679732764). Seniors will re-read parts and discuss the book through the first quarter.

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 teachers 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.

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Students enrolled in Modern European History must read James R. Gaines, *For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolutions* (ISBN: 978-0393061383). I hope that this absorbing joint biography will serve as a bridge between US History and MEH.

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.

STATISTICS

Students taking the full credit option of Statistics are required to read *The Numbers Game: The Commonsense Guide to Understanding Numbers in the News, Politics and in Life* by Michael Blastland and Andrew Dilnot (ISBN: 978-1592404230).

ECONOMICS

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

** Students taking the electives **AMERICAN CULTURE AND POLITICS, 1968-** and **ART AND LETTERS IN RENAISSANCE ITALY** should expect to receive information about summer reading from their teachers over the summer. **