

DISTRICT 128
HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

We are glad that you have enrolled in Honors United States History. Due to the high caliber of students that choose this course, we are able to offer a more in-depth study of the American past. As a way to introduce you to a particular area of history, as well as to serve as a spring board for class discussions, we begin the course with the reading of a work of historical fiction. During the school year this type of additional reading is not always feasible, so we assign the reading during the summer (when you have plenty of free time!).

Select one of the books from the enclosed list. You can find these books at our school library, local libraries and bookstores. Critically read the chosen book. You will want to jot down notes as you read. On the first day of school, you should come prepared to write and discuss the following regarding your selected book:

- A- Are historical circumstances specifically mentioned? What are they? What does the author say about them?**
- B- What social classes and educational backgrounds are involved?**
- C- What values or value systems do the characters reflect or represent?**
- D- Are the principal characters part of the socioeconomic background or are they outsiders?**
- E- Are the characters broken by the system, or do they gain entrance to it?**
- F- What in the author's background influenced the writing?**
- G- If the author write during the time period of the novel, what conclusions can you draw about the author's attitude toward his/her own times?**
- H- Is the author biased or impartial in his/her presentation of the times and the characters?**
- I- Is the author representative of, or contrary to, the values of the time period?**
- J- What are the key themes & plot? How do these connect to American History?**

Helpful advice:

**most of these books are over 300 pages in length. Don't wait until the last minute!*

**Availability of some of the books may be limited. Don't wait until the last minute!*

**If you are having difficulty placing the book in its historical context, take the initiative to consult other general text or reference sources. Again, don't wait until the last minute!*

We are looking forward to meeting you in the fall. Enjoy your reading and have a great summer!

This information can also be found on the Social Studies Department page of the LHS website at <http://lhwildcats.org> or Mrs. Dircks website under Honors US history at <http://vhscougars.org>.

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A. REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Robert Abel	<i>Freedom Dues</i>
Laurie Anderson	<i>Fever</i>
James Boyd	<i>Drums</i>
John Brick	<i>Captives of the Senecas</i>
Inglis Fletcher	<i>the Wind in the Forest</i>
Nora Benjamin Kubie	<i>Joel</i>
Irving Stone	<i>Those Who Love</i>

B. BUILDING THE NATION

Barbara Chase-Ribound	<i>Sally Hemings</i>
James R. French	<i>Navoo</i>
W. Michael Gear	<i>The Morning River</i>
Diane Glancy	<i>Pushing the Bear</i>
Evan Hunter	<i>The Chisholms</i>
Jane Smiley	<i>The All True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton</i>
William Styron	<i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i>
Williard M. Wallace	<i>Jonathon Dearborn</i>

C. THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Connie Brisco	<i>A Long Way Home</i>
Geraldine Brooks	<i>March</i>
Michelle Cliff	<i>Free Enterprise</i>
Thomas Dyja	<i>Play for a Kingdom</i>
Howard Fast	<i>Freedom Road</i>
MacKinlay Kantor	<i>Andersonville</i>
MacKinlay Kantor	<i>Long Remember</i>
F. Van Wyck Mason	<i>Trumpets Sound No More</i>

Peter Quinn
Michael Shaara
Lalita Tademy

Banished Children of Eve
The Killer Angels
Cane River

D. WESTERN FRONTIER

Isabel Allende
Nathaniel Benchley
Hal Borland
Dee Brown
Jim Fergus
Douglas Jones
Douglas Jones
Normal Zollinger

Daughter of Fortune
Only Earth and Sky Last Forever
When the Legends Die
Kildeer Mountain
One Thousand White Women
Come Winter
Gone the Dreams and the Dancing
Riders to Cibola

E. INDUSTRIALIZATION/THE GILDED AGE

Charles W. Bailey
Susannah Bamford
William Dean Howells
John Jakes
Joan King
Marilyn Sacks
Irving Stone
Jame Richards

The Land Was Ours
The Gilded Cage
The Rise of Silas Lapham
Homeland
Impressionist
Call Me Ruth
Adversary in the House
Three Rivers Rising

F. WORLD WAR I/ THE TWENTIES

Theodore Dreiser
Langston Hughes
Richard Marius
Utpon Sinclair

An American Tragedy
Not Without Laughter
After the War
The Fliver King

G. THE DEPRESSION/NEW DEAL

Saul Bellow
James Farrell
Wright Morris
Michelle Murray

The Adventures of Augie March
Studs Lonigan
Plains Song: For Female Voices
The Crystal Nights

H. WORLD WAR II

Edward Beach

G.F. Gordon

Sinclair Lewis

William McGivern

Max Hennessy

Leo Rosten

I. THE COLD WAR

James Hickey

Fletcher Knebel and Charles

W. Bailey

Mary Lee Settle

J. THE VIETNAM WAR

Winston Groom

William Lederer

K. CIVIL RIGHTS

Thulani Davis

Marita Gold

Run Silent, Run Deep

Seven Six One

It Can't Happen Here

Soldiers of '44

Back to Battle

Captain Newman, M.D.

Chrysanthemum in the Snow

Seven Days in May

Choices

Better Times Than These

The Ugly American

1959

Long Distance Life