



## **Summer Reading: Students Entering 12th Grade**

### **Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year**

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not on the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com), is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

### **Reading Response Journal**

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing five journal entries. Here is what you need to do:

- Split your book into five equally sized parts. For each of these parts you will write one journal entry (explained below).
- For each entry you will need to have one sheet of paper – total of five sheets of paper.
- Fold each sheet of paper in half long-wise or draw a straight line down the middle.
- On the right hand side of the paper, write a short summary (at least one or two paragraphs that explain what happened in the section – make sure to have something from the beginning, the middle, and the end of your section).
- On the left hand side you will respond to your summary. You may want to write about how you feel about what you have read, other topics it may have made you think about, experiences you may have had that were similar those experienced within the book. Some sentence starters are (you may answer more than one of these per section):
  - If I were the character...
  - A quote I liked or reacted to strongly is...
  - This reminds me of...
  - I predict...
  - This line is interesting/challenging/puzzling because...
  - I now understand why/how/what ...
  - I was surprised by...
  - Some questions I have are...
  - I'm confused about...

- Complete one of these entries for each of the five sections of your book.
- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

**Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.**

### **Realistic Fiction**

Hilton, James. *Good-Bye, Mr. Chips*

This is the story of a proper teacher and headmaster of a private school in England whose marriage brings a change in personality and approach to school. Tender-hearted, caring.

Prolx, Annie. *The Shipping News*

Pulitzer Prize-winning author. 1993 National Book Award Winner. A romance set in Newfoundland.

Soto, Gary. *Buried Onions*

Guy lives in a ghetto. His cousin is killed in a gang-related shooting. Mother and aunt want guy to get revenge. He wants to go to college. He tries to get out of the ghetto.

### **Classics**

Austen, Jane. *Emma*

A classic by Austen. An excellent complementary title to her famous romantic novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*

This is a famous story of five sisters in eighteenth century England and their romances and lives. Wonderful foil characters.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*

The captivating, suspenseful story of an orphan who goes to Mr. Rochester's home to serve as governess/ teacher to his little girl - and then falls in love with her boss.

Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*

The poor orphan in London is adopted by a rough gang and then by a wealthy gentleman. Novel of social contrasts.

Hardy, Thomas. *Far from the Madding Crowd*

Love and romance enliven a bleak country setting in England in this Hardy classic

## **Historical Fiction**

Gaines, Ernest. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Born a slave, then married by jumping over a broom (as did most slaves, for they could not afford a preacher), then freed, Miss Jane Pittman tells her experiences through her eyes: during a 100-year period.

Mason, Bobbi Ann. *In Country*

After her father is killed in the Vietnam War, Sam Hughes lives with an uncle whom she suspects suffers from the effects of Agent Orange, and struggles to come to terms with the war's impact on her family.

## **Mystery and Suspense.**

Gardner, John. *Grendel*

In this unique interpretation of the Beowulf legend, the monster Grendel relates his struggle to understand the ugliness in himself and mankind in the brutal world of fourteenth-century Denmark. Terrific to read in comparison with Beowulf.

Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*

Mystery set at end of World War II murder trial

King, Laurie. *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

This is the story of Mary Russell, who becomes an apprentice to the retired Sherlock Holmes.

Roosevelt, Elliott. *White House Pantry Murder*

An Eleanor Roosevelt murder mystery, written by her son. Someone is murdered in the pantry of the White House. Police work together with her to solve this. Mystery reveals issues of the time period.

Truman, Margaret. *Murder at the National Cathedral*

Set in the 1980's, Harry Truman's daughter uses her knowledge of Washington, D.C. from her years there to write this mystery.

Truman, Margaret. *Murder in Georgetown*

Set in the 1980's, Harry Truman's daughter uses her knowledge of Washington, D.C. from her years there to write this mystery.

Truman, Margaret. *Murder in the White House*

Set in the 1980's, Harry Truman's daughter uses her knowledge of Washington, D.C. from her years there to write this mystery.

## **Fantasy and Science Fiction**

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *Mists of Avalon*

King Arthur from a woman's viewpoint

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

This is a hilarious satire about growing up and about adults and their inconsistencies by a brilliant mathematician at Oxford, who wrote this as a gift to his young friend.

Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*

The satirical adventures of a giant who travels to be with the little people, the Lilliputians, this is a classical work from English literature. You may have read this before, but you will see much more in it now.

### **Biography, Autobiography, Memoir**

Carr, John Dickson. *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

A biography of the famous British mystery writer's life

Christie, Agatha. *Autobiography*

This is the autobiography of the famous, prolific mystery writer from England.

Cook, Blanche Wiesen. *Eleanor Roosevelt: Vol. 1: 1884-1933*

A biography of the first lady, who was born into a privileged world but became a champion of the underprivileged and a fighter for human rights

Delaney, Sarah and Elizabeth. *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years*

Two black sisters tell stories of their lives and their times during 100 years of American history. Recently published, this provides terrific background for race relations and American History II.

Freedman, Russell. *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

A biography of our longest-serving American President, who led Americans out of the Depression, began Social Security, and led Americans in World War II. Solid background for American History study.

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *The Life of Charlotte Bronte*

This is a biography of the famous author of *Wuthering Heights*, a 19th Century Classic.

Goodall, Jane. *Africa in My Blood*

Jane Goodall's letters form an autobiography

Harlan, Louis R. *Booker T. Washington*

The Pulitzer Prize winning biography of the life of a famous Black leader. Great for American History knowledge and understanding of the American problem with race: a central issue in American history and literature.

Kallir, Jane. *Grandma Moses: The Artist behind the Myth*

This is a biography on the famous artist, who began painting when she was nearly ninety years old and painted primitive country scenes.

Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*

This is an award-winning book written by Kennedy at his wife's urging when he was very sick. It concerns individuals Kennedy believes are courageous. Good for background understanding of history study. Pulitzer Prize winner

Kunhardt, Philip. *PT Barnum*

About Barnum's rise to success with his Greatest Show on Earth.

Lindbergh, Charles A. *The Spirit of St. Louis*

An autobiography of the famous pilot who was the first to fly from New York to Paris non-stop, this provides background for study of American History and geography. A Pulitzer Prize winning book.

Lovell, Mary S. *The Sound of Wings: The Biography of Amelia Earhart*

A biography of the famous female pilot who perished while flying across the ocean, this is also good background for study of American History.

Malcom X with the assistance of Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

A great and controversial Black Muslim figure relates his transformation from street hustler to religious and national leader. Ties in with American History study. Alex Haley later wrote Roots.

Manchester, William. *Death of a President*

A biography of John F. Kennedy that is helpful for study of American History this year

Miller, Merle. *Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman*

This is the biography of a simple man from Missouri who is known as a very effective President. He assumed the presidency after the death of Roosevelt, then won election on his own, and then returned to Missouri. Sound background for American History.

Moody, Ann. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

One of the first brave young African-American students to participate in a lunch counter sit-in, Moody becomes a heroine of the civil rights movement. Background for American History II.

Robeson, Susan. *The Whole World in His Hands: A Pictorial Biography of Paul Robeson*

A biography of the famous actor and singer from New Brunswick, New Jersey, who fought for the rights of his Black Brothers. Good background for American History.

Rodriguez, Richard. *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez: An Autobiography*

Rodriguez's journey through the educational system leads to his belief that family, culture, and language must be left behind to succeed in mainstream America. This autobiography of the analyzer of contemporary American Life on PBS, shows his remarkable journey.

Thornton, Yvonne. *Ditchdigger's Daughter*

Thornton lives in Morristown, and is one of five daughters in a poor black family. All five daughters went to college. This tells how they survived.

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth*

Wright recalls his pre-World War II youth, when racial and personal obstacles seemed insurmountable. Complements study of American History II.

### **War/ Conflict: Fiction and Non-Fiction**

Amohty, Christine. *I Am Fifteen - And I Don't Want to Die*

As World War II rages, Christine and her family must escape war-torn Budapest. Their struggle to stay alive teaches Christine some hard lessons in this true story of life during war times. Good background for American History II.

Brokowitz, Tom. *The Greatest Generation*.

Best-selling collection of stories of men and women who came of age during the Depression and World War II, this provides solid background for American History II.

Dank, Milton. *The Dangerous Game*

About World War II. Good for study of American History II.

Edelman, Bernard, Ed., *American Service Personnel*

Letters from those who made it back and from those who did not return provide a glimpse into the lives of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War. Good for study of American History II.

Heggen, Thomas. *Mister Roberts*

A fictionalized account of a famous Lieutenant in World War II, and the rebellion against him, this is.

Mason, Robert. *Chickenhawk*

About the Vietnam War, this provides background understanding for American History II.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*

This Vietnam War story provides background for study of American History II.

Toland, John. *The Flying Tigers*

A book about elite pilots in World War II, this book provides background for study of American History II.

White, Ellen Emerson. *The Road Home*

Nurse in Vietnam War comes home and adjusts to life at home.

Williams, Juan. *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*

From *Brown v. the Board of Education* in 1954 to the Voting Rights Act in 1965, Williams outlines the social and political gains of African Americans.

Wouk, Herman. *The Caine Mutiny*  
A story about World War II.

Wouk, Herman. *The Winds of War*  
Popular account of World War II

### **Drama**

Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*

The dramatic story of Sir Thomas More, who would not support King Henry VIII's divorcing his wife to marry another.

Christie, Agatha. *Mousetrap*

Stranded in a boarding house during a snowstorm, a group of strangers discovers a murderer in their midst. Longest-running play on record in London.

Coward, Noel. *Blithe Spirit*

A man's wife dies, and he remarries. His first wife decides to haunt their house, for she does not like the new wife. The first wife decides to kill the husband, but her plans change.

Eliot, T.S. *Murder in the Cathedral*

A play about Thomas Becket's going against King Henry II's decision and suffering for it.

Lerner, Alan Jay. *My Fair Lady*

Musical version of Shaw's *Pygmalion*: the transformation of a flower-seller into a princess via language study.

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear*

Compelling tragedy about conflict between a king and his three daughters. Terrific for comparison/ contrast with *Macbeth*.

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*

Tragedy about a jealous husband who is the subject of a vengeful plot. Terrific for comparison/ contrast with *Macbeth*.

Wilde, Oscar. *Importance of Being Earnest*

Can a baby, abandoned at Victoria Station, grow up to find love, romance, identity, and the importance of being earnest? A humorous play from the early 1900's in England.

### **Poetry**

Browning, Robert. *Poems*

These are Browning's classic poems about small things in life, such as the mouse. Written in country style.

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. *Sonnets from the Portuguese*

Love sonnets and sonnets of daily life by a famous woman poet of the 1800's

Carlson, Lori M., editor. *Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing up Latino in the United States*

Party times, hard times, memories, and dreams come to life in these English, Spanish, and Spanglish poems. Good background for American History II.

Giddings, Robert. *The War Poets*

The work of a variety of World War I poets, many who died in the conflict, is reinforced with illustrations, biographical notes, and a brief history of "the war to end all wars." Good connections with American History II.

Hughes, Ted. *Crow*

Beautifully-constructed poetry written by the husband of Sylvia Plath who was also Poet Laureate of England

Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Sonnets*

Shakespeare's sonnets, mostly of love, in his original Shakespearean rhyme scheme.

### **Sports: Fiction and Non-Fiction**

Asinof, Eliot. *Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series*

It's all here: the players, the scandal, the shame, and the damage the 1919 World Series caused America's national pastime.

Gallen, David, editor. *Baseball Chronicles*

Stories of baseball for the baseball player or fan.

McKissack, Patricia. *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues.*

Learn about the former Negro Leagues as you understand American History and baseball.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Hoops*

Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of Harlem until the savage underworld of sports and big money forces him to make a choice.

Rushin, Steve. *Road Swing*

Popular book on sports traveling in America for one year.