

Summer Reading



FROM THE SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT:

Teachers in the Social Studies Department believe that students' minds need to be engaged during the summer break so they will arrive ready to begin a new learning cycle on the first day of school. The books selected offer an additional perspective to each subject. The Good Earth presents a timeless story of Chinese peasantry set in the revolutionary period of 1911-1912 (China, 2008 Olympics). Panther in the Sky makes the Shawnee of Ohio (Tecumseh) the "good guys" and the white settlers (W.H. Harrison) the "bad guys." Gangs of New York and Plunkitt of Tammany Hall provide a glimpse into the somewhat "seedier" aspects of American life and politics in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Sophomores enrolled in Global Studies Survey or Honors Global Studies Survey should read The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck. Students will be evaluated on their reading during the first week of class.

Juniors enrolled in American History should read Panther in the Sky by James Alexander Thom. Students will be evaluated on their reading during the first week of class.

Juniors enrolled Honors American History or AP United States History should read Panther in the Sky by James Alexander Thom and Gangs of New York by Herbert Asbury. Students will be evaluated on their reading during the first week of class.

Seniors enrolled in Honors American Government or Honors 20th Century American History should read Plunkitt of Tammany Hall by William Riordon (available on-line). Students will be evaluated on their reading during the first week of class.

FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:

The Ohio Department of Education benchmarks that support summer reading are: (1) students will use appropriate self monitoring strategies for comprehension, (2) students will demonstrate an understanding of effective speaking strategies by selecting appropriate language and adjusting presentation techniques, and (3) students will independently read books for various purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, for literary experience, to gain information or to perform a task).

Freshmen enrolled in Honors English 9 should select and read a book of their choice.

At the beginning of school, they will give a presentation to the class about the book.

The following criteria should be used for book selection:

- The book must be appropriate for class discussion.
- The book must not go against the teachings of the Church.
- The book must be written at a reading level that is appropriate for their age.
- The book should preferably be something that the student has not previously read.

Upon returning to school, students will be expected to give a presentation on the book they read. More specific information on the assignment will be given on the first day of school.

Freshmen enrolled in English 9 should read Hiroshima by John Hersey. Students should be prepared at the beginning of school for an assignment related to the book.

Juniors enrolled in Honors American Studies should read The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller.

Seniors enrolled in AP English Literature & Composition should read The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini and Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood and Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. Students should be prepared for an assignment upon returning to school.

Students enrolled in Best-Sellers should select one work of fiction to read over the summer and be prepared for a related assignment at the beginning of the school year.

The book selected should meet the following criteria:

- Written by a New York Times Bestselling author
- Written in the last ten years

Students interested in participating in Academic Decathlon for the 2008-09 school year should read Bless Me Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya.