

THE FIELD SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT

SUMMER READING LIST 2015

The purpose of summer reading is twofold: to give students the opportunity to read books over the summer that they might enjoy, and to give them a common understanding of some element of the history they will be studying next school year. Books were selected with these two goals in mind. How individual teachers and courses make use of the summer reading may vary, but each student should be prepared to make use of the summer reading at the start of the school year. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of the book so that they might take notes in it and highlight passages, etc. Students should carefully review the requirements for the grade they will be entering in the fall. At some grade levels, the requirements include following reading guides, note-taking, or film-viewing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE — HISTORY 6

Rising 6th graders should be on the lookout for *maps* this summer. Your goal is to find at least one map that might be useful to you in telling the story of your summer. If you travel, find and hold onto a map of the city, state, or country you visit. If you stay local, find and hold onto a neighborhood or transit map. We will use these maps in the first week of the year in order to show where each of us is arriving from.

SEVENTH GRADE — HISTORY 7

Required

Red Scarf Girl, by Ji Ji Jiang

EIGHTH GRADE — HISTORY 8

Required (choose 1)

Wait Till Next Year, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

An American Childhood, by Annie Dillard

Bad Boy, A Memoir, by Walter Dean Myers

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir, by Bill Bryson [parents might want to preview this, as it contains mature content]

Required Viewing

The Long Walk Home (1990, dir. Richard Pearce)

Any Academy Award winning movie from 1933-1941

NINTH GRADE — HISTORY 9

Required

Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit, by Daniel Quinn*

*Students should download the accompanying reading guide posted on the Field website to complete as they read the book.

TENTH GRADE — HISTORY 10

Required

1984, by George Orwell

Required Viewing

Robin Hood (2010, dir. Ridley Scott, PG-13))

ELEVENTH GRADE — HISTORY 11

Required

The Republic of Imagination by Azar Nasifi (only introduction and Chapter 1 are required)

Required Viewing

Glory (1989, dir. Edward Zwick)

ELECTIVE COURSES

JUSTICE SEMINAR

Required (Choose 1)

The Central Park Five: A Chronicle of a City Wilding, by Sarah Burns

Parents may want to preview this, as it contains mature content. Students are strongly encouraged to take notes or use Post-Its to mark where particular passages help them understand how this case unfolded. As students read the story of the crime and its aftermath, they should focus on the elements that contributed to this miscarriage of justice. Was it a police department and prosecution going too far? Did race and class play a factor - the race and class of the alleged assailants versus the race and class of the victim? What was the media's role? The political leadership of the city?

The Moral of the Story: An Anthology of Ethics Through Literature, Peter Singer and Renata Singer, editors

The anthology is divided in three parts – Personal Moral Issues, the Community and Beyond, and Reflecting on Ethics. Students should choose any three readings in each section (for a total of nine readings). For each reading, students are expected to take notes on the essential plot and on the ethical or moral problem highlighted in the reading.]

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander and Cornel West

Required Viewing

Treasure of the Sierra Madre (dir. John Ford, 1948, USA)

Students should take notes on the basic plot of the film and on the main characters, Fred C. Dobbs, Howard, and Bob Curtin, in particular the ethical or moral situations that arise over the course of the film.

RATIONAL AND NON-RATIONAL APPROACHES TO MEANING

Required

Before and After Socrates, by F.M. Cornford

Required Viewing

The Paper Chase (feature film, not television series, 1973, dir. James Bridges)

20th CENTURY SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Required

Freedom Summer: The Savage Season that Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy, by Bruce Watson

GLOBAL NARRATIVES

Required (Choose 1)

Chasing the Flame: One Man's Fight to Save the World, by Samantha Power

China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn