

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS SOCIAL STUDIES HONORS PROGRAM WORLD HISTORY – GRADE 9

Welcome to the Social Studies Honors Program

We have an exciting program and look forward to your participation.

Your first assignment is to read one novel during the summer. This novel has been chosen to complement each course's curriculum.

The teachers of the respective courses have developed guidelines to help you as you read the novel. Please read these carefully. The essays are due on *the FIRST day of the new school year*. This will be counted as your first essay grade. A test will be administered on the *FIRST Friday of the new school year*. This will be counted as your first test grade.

The novel is available in the public library. If you wish to purchase your own copy, it will be sold at the middle school and it is available at "Here's The Story" bookstore in Union Center. The cost for the book is \$12.00.

Enjoy your reading. Have a wonderful summer break.
We will see you in September.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

To: Middle School Honors Students
Date: June 2015
Re: Social Studies Honors Reading Program

The Social Studies Department honors program has a reading component, which further challenges students enrolled in grade eight U.S. History and grade nine World History.

A novel has been selected for this program. Students are expected to read the novel over the summer and prepare for an *assessment* which will be administered in the respective classrooms on the FIRST Friday of the new school year. Essay questions are due on the FIRST day of the new school year.

The novel will be available at the public library and also for purchase at school and at "Here's the Story" bookstore in Union Center. The cost of the book is \$12.00.

GRADE NINE Honors WORLD HISTORY:

Novel:

Things Fall Apart – CHINUA ACHEBE

RETURN THIS SIGNED TO YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER BY TOMORROW.

Burnet: Ms. O'Neill Kawameeh: Mr. Leone

Student's Name

Current Grade

School

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Students will answer each question with a **TYPED ESSAY** comprised of approximately **THREE to FIVE** paragraphs. Each paragraph is to consist of at least **FIVE** sentences.

Each essay must meet the following standards:

CONTENT

- * Opening statement
- * Development of key ideas
- * Logical progression of ideas
- * Justification through supporting details
- * Logical transitions
- * Writing style that interests the reader
- * An identifiable conclusion
- * The essay must respond directly to the posed question, not be just indirectly or peripherally related to the question.

FORMAT

- * Correct sentence structure (syntax)
- * Varied sentence structure
- * Correct grammar
- * Correct spelling

These standards should be used for all social studies writing assignments.

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS SOCIAL STUDIES AP/HONORS PROGRAM

HONORS WORLD HISTORY – 2015 SUMMER PROJECT

Based on your analysis of *Things Fall Apart*, compose a Thematic Essay response to the following question:

Was the culture of the Ibo effective in meeting the needs of their particular society or did it, indeed, need to “fall apart” at the hands of the white man in order to “improve it”?

Be sure to include information on their social structure, their religion, their use of violence, and the status of women in your response.

This essay **MUST** be typed.

The Thematic Essay must include **FIVE (5)** paragraphs structured in the following manner:

Paragraph One **MUST** include a **Thesis Statement**. This must be a specific answer to the question asked. The paragraph must also introduce **THREE (3) factual areas** from your reading that will justify your Thesis Statement.

Paragraph Two **MUST** coherently present the **first factual area** introduced in Paragraph One. To prove your point, you **MUST** provide **AT LEAST THREE specific details** from the book.

Paragraph Three **MUST** coherently present the **second factual area** introduced in Paragraph One. To prove your point, you **MUST** provide **AT LEAST THREE specific details** from the book.

Paragraph Four **MUST** coherently present the **third factual area** introduced in Paragraph One. To prove your point, you **MUST** provide **AT LEAST THREE specific details** from the book.

Paragraph Five **MUST** conclude the essay by explaining how you have proved your Thesis statement. **You are NOT to simply restate your original Thesis Statement.** You must, instead, connect and unify all of your factual areas as a logical answer.

On the **FIRST** day of the new school year, you **MUST**:

- a.) Submit your completed essay response.
- b.) This will be counted as your first essay grade.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THIS ESSAY ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE COURSE.

- a.) On the **First Friday** of the new school year, you will take an objective test based on your knowledge of the book you read.
- b.) This will be counted as your first test grade.

THEMATIC ESSAY

1. ACCEPTABLE THESIS:

- a. Thesis Statement
- b. Introduce 3 Justification Areas

2. THREE AREAS:

- a. 1 Paragraph Each
- b. Minimum 3 Facts Each

3. EXAMPLES SUPPORT THESIS – Minimum 9 Facts Total

4. EXAMPLES RELEVANT – Minimum 9 Facts Linked Directly to Thesis

5. INFORMATION CORRECT – Minimum 6 Facts Accurate

6. CONCLUSION SUPPORTS THESIS:

+ Adds new Information
Convinces, Does NOT Repeat

OR

No Conclusion BUT More Than 9 Accurate Facts

COMPLEX THESIS – Greater Depth
3 Justification Areas Explained

AREAS BALANCED - # Facts in EACH Area must be consistent

STRONG EVIDENCE –Minimum 12 Accurate Facts Linked Directly to Thesis

ANALYTICAL – Must have:

Complex Thesis
12 Accurate Pertinent Facts
Developed Conclusion