

A.P. U.S. HISTORY II
2016 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Part I

Go lightly on this

The first part of the assignment is to give a one to two page summary of the characters, plot (?)/ story line, and setting (both geographical and historical).

Secondly, as you read, try to determine what the purpose is for writing the book. Was it to enlighten, illuminate, discredit, praise, or promote an agenda? Also, try to unearth the historical argument (often a direct connection to the purpose) or the thesis of the book. A strong paragraph explaining the purpose and the historical argument (or thesis) will be next.

Lastly, write a good paragraph telling how you feel about the book. What did you take away from it? How does it compare to other books of this type you have read? What questions regarding the time period, and American History in general, did it raise for you?

More on the purpose & your reaction.

Choose one from the following:

Little Big Man - Thomas Berger

Indian and Indian Fighters in settling the West (Historical Fiction)

Ragtime - E.L. Doctorow

An exploration of the early years of the 20th Century (Historical Fiction)

Only Yesterday - Fred Allen

An entertaining analysis of the 1920's. (Non-Fiction)

Native Son - Richard Wright

A look at race relations in 1930's Chicago. (Novel)

Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

Classic story of Oakies headed to California during Dust Bowl. (Novel)

Winds of War - Herman Wouk

American family gets swept up into events brought about by WWII. (Historical Fiction)

Autobiograph of Malcolm X - Alex Haley

Story of the transformation of radical Black Nationlist. (Non-Fiction)

The Glory and the Dream - William Manchester

Either volume (there are two). A look at 20th Century American History (Non-Fiction)

Hellhound on His Trail - Hampton Sides

The search for Martin Luther King's assassin. (Non-Fiction)