



Upper School Summer Reading Guide 2019

May 2019

Dear Students,

Welcome to the 2019 Upper School Summer Reading Guide. Here you will find a list of the required and choice books for all English courses, AP World History, AP U.S. History, and AP Spanish, as well as links to Amazon so you can find out more about them, read reviews, make informed choices based on your interests and worldview, and order them right away, if you would like. You will also find instructions and expectations for the activities/projects we would like you to complete for the beginning of next school year.

Please acquire your summer reading choices on your own, from wherever you like, at whatever price point you like (new or used, purchased or borrowed from a friend or the good ol' public library), in whatever medium you like (traditional paperback, online, iBook, Kindle, or CD). Unless a particular edition or translation is indicated, any copy will suffice. The Amazon links are just for your reference.

Please read the instructions for each class carefully. In general, for your English class, you will choose two books to read and have a written requirement. Other classes may have other requirements.

Initiated by the English Department in 1975, required summer reading has long been a tradition at The Prairie School. The Department believes that reading and learning should end neither in June nor with the curriculum, and strongly encourages students to take advantage of the time to read literature of their choosing — even above and beyond what we ask them to read for school. No matter the grade, required and independent reading helps students practice and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Your teachers are thankful to have the opportunity to share in reading experiences with you even during the summer, and we hope that you are thankful as well for the right and opportunity that you have to read, to write, and to think.

Have a wonderful summer of reading!
Sincerely,

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English 9

“Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes.”

-- Benjamin Disraeli

Please read the following **non-fiction** book:

- *This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men & Women* (Jay Allison, Dan Gediman, editors)
 - This is the second in the series, published in 2009, not the first one published in 2007. This second collection of This I Believe II essays gathers seventy-five essayists ranging from famous to previously unknown; completing the thought that begins the book's title. Here is a welcome, stirring, and provocative communion with the minds and hearts of a diverse, new group of people whose beliefs and the remarkably varied ways in which they choose to express them reveal the American spirit at its best.

Assignment:

***This I Believe* Essay**

- When school begins, you will be using the personal narrative essay you write as a first draft toward a revised, polished version.
- [Click here](#) for further instructions
- Your writing will be submitted on Google Classroom — join using the code “**rhnkft**”

In addition, please choose **one more** book to read (preferably one that you haven't read before):

- *Lord of the Flies* (William Golding)
 - William Golding's compelling story about a group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first it seems as though it is all going to be great fun; but the fun before long becomes furious and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death.
- *Anansi Boys* (Neil Gaiman)
 - Fat Charlie Nancy's normal life ended the moment his father dropped dead on a Florida karaoke stage. Charlie didn't know his dad was a god. And he never knew he had a brother. Now brother Spider is on his doorstep—about to make Fat Charlie's life more interesting...and a lot more dangerous.
- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* (Garth Stein)
 - Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.
- *The Life of Pi* (Yann Martel)
 - Following a shipwreck, a sixteen-year-old Indian boy and a bengal tiger drift for several months in a lifeboat.
- *Whale Rider* (Witi Ihimaera)
 - A mystical story of Maori culture. The birth of a daughter — Kahu — breaks the lineage of a Maori tribe. Rejected by her grandfather, Kahu develops the ability to communicate with whales, echoing those of the ancient Whale Rider after whom she was named.
- *Blood Red Road* (Dustlands, Book 1) (Moirra Young)
 - Saba has spent her whole life in Silverlake, a dried-up wasteland ravaged by constant sandstorms. The Wrecker civilization has long been destroyed, leaving only landfills for Saba and her family to scavenge from. That's fine by her, as long as her beloved twin brother Lugh is around. But when four cloaked horsemen capture Lugh, Saba's world is shattered, and she embarks on a quest to get him back.
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (Benjamin Alire Sáenz)

- Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.
- *The Wrath and the Dawn (The Wrath and the Dawn, Book 1)* (Renee Ahdieh)
 - Every dawn brings horror to a different family in a land ruled by a killer. Khalid, the eighteen-year-old Caliph of Khorasan, takes a new bride each night only to have her executed at sunrise. So it is a suspicious surprise when sixteen-year-old Shahrzad volunteers to marry Khalid. But she does so with a clever plan to stay alive and exact revenge on the Caliph for the murder of her best friend and countless other girls. Shazi's wit and will, indeed, get her through to the dawn that no others have seen, but with a catch...she's falling in love with the very boy who killed her dearest friend.
- *Side Effects May Vary* (Julie Murphy)
 - When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend, Harvey, to help her with a crazy bucket list that's as much about revenge as it is about hope. But just when Alice's scores are settled, she goes into remission, and now she must face the consequences of all she's said and done.
- *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythical Proportions* (Daniel Wallace)
 - In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. He could outrun anybody. He never missed a day of school. He saved lives and tamed giants. Animals loved him, people loved him, women loved him. He knew more jokes than any man alive. At least that's what he told his son, William. But now Edward Bloom is dying, and William wants desperately to know the truth about his elusive father, this indefatigable teller of tall tales, before it's too late. So, using the few facts he knows, William re-creates Edward's life in a series of legends and myths, hilarious and wrenching, tender and outrageous, through which he begins to understand his father's great feats, and his great failings.

Assignment:

Paragraph that answers the following question: If the main character of your choice book had to write a This I Believe essay, what would they write about? What do they believe in?

- Make sure that your paragraph has a topic sentence, supporting details, examples from the text to support your thinking, and a concluding sentence.
- Your writing will be submitted on Google Classroom -- join using the code "rhnkft"

English 10

“The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”

--Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Your writing assignment about your books is due **Monday, August 19th** (the day before we leave for Camp Manito-wish) and can be found [here](#). Dr. Wheeler will also email it to you. If you have questions, email rwheeler@prairieschool.com.

Please read the following play:

- *Master Harold...And the Boys* (Athol Fugard)
 - "Master Harold," or Hally, learns that his alcoholic father is to be released from the hospital and struggles with his emotions during a confrontation with the two black men who work in the family's restaurant in 1950s South Africa.

In addition, please choose one more book to read:

- *The Drowned Cities* (Paolo Bacigalupi) — **Fiction**
 - In a dark America that has devolved into unending civil wars, orphans Mahlia and Mouse barely escape the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities, but their fragile safety is soon threatened and Mahlia will have to risk everything if she is to save Mouse, as he once saved her.
- *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) — **Fiction**
 - Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home—a home that is silent and suffocating.
- *We are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World* (Malala Yousafzai) — **Nonfiction**
 - Nobel Peace Prize winner and *New York Times*-bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces some of the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide. Malala's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement -- first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. In *We Are Displaced*, which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys -- girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known
- *Outcasts United: The Story of A Refugee Soccer Team That Changed A Town* (Warren St. John) — **Nonfiction**
 - Based on the adult bestseller, *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*, this young people's edition is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* (William Kamkwamba) — **Nonfiction**
 - William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to

his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala — crazy — but William refused to let go of his dreams.

- *How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child* (Sandra Uwiringiyimana) — **Nonfiction**
 - This memoir is the true story of a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who tells the tale of how she survived a massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma through art and activism.

English 11

*"I celebrate myself, and sing myself, And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."*

-- Walt Whitman

Please choose one fiction and one nonfiction book to read:

Fiction options:

- *The Catcher in the Rye* (J.D. Salinger)
 - The story of Holden Caulfield with his idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity and negativism. Holden, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there.
- *Kindred* (Octavia Butler)
 - Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.
- *The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros)
 - *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes-sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous-Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.
- *The Glory Field* (Walter Dean Myers)
 - This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all.
- *Unaccustomed Earth* (Jhumpa Lahiri)
 - These eight short stories by beloved and bestselling author Jhumpa Lahiri take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand, as they explore the secrets at the heart of family life. Here they enter the worlds of sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, daughters and sons, friends and lovers.
- *Age of Innocence* (Edith Wharton)
 - One of Edith Wharton's most famous novels — the first by a woman to win the Pulitzer Prize — exquisitely details a tragic struggle between love and responsibility in Gilded Age New York. Newland Archer, an aristocratic young lawyer, is engaged to the cloistered, beautiful May Welland. But when May's cousin Ellen arrives from Europe, fleeing her failed marriage to a Polish count, her worldly and independent nature intrigues and unsettles Archer. Trapped by his passionless relationship with May and the social conventions that forbid a relationship with the disgraced Ellen, Archer is torn between possibility and duty. Wharton's profound understanding of her characters' lives makes the triangle of Archer, May, and Ellen both urgent and poignant. An incisive look at the ways desire and emotion must negotiate the complex rules of society, *The Age of Innocence* is one of Wharton's most moving works.
- *Americanah* (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)
 - Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for

- the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion — for each other and for their homeland.
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (Erika Sánchez)
 - Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never *abandon* their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out *every possible way* Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, Lorena, and her first love (first everything), Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?
 - *Native Son* (Richard Wright)
 - Bigger Thomas's crimes horrified Chicago who finds a sense of identity in acts of violence; sufferings, frustrations and restlessness mark the circumstances in this classic novel.

Nonfiction options:

- *Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness* (Pete Fromm)
 - "The wardens climbed into their truck, ready to leave. 'You'll need about seven cords of firewood. Concentrate on that. You'll have to get it all in before the snow grounds your truck.'" "Though I didn't want to ask, it seemed important. 'What's a cord?'" So begins Pete Fromm's seven winter months alone in a tent in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness guarding salmon eggs. After blundering into this forbidding errand as a college lark, Fromm gradually comes face to face with the blunt realities of life as a contemporary mountain man. Brutal cold, isolation, and fearful risks balance against the satisfaction of living a unique existence in modern America. This award-winning narrative is a gripping story of adventure, a rousing tale of self-sufficiency, and modern-day Walden.
- *Enrique's Journey* (Sonia Nazario)
 - *Enrique's Journey* recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.
- *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* (James McBride)
 - An African-American male tells of his mother, a white woman, who refused to admit her true identity.
- *The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee's, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table* (Tracie McMillan)
 - When award-winning (and working-class) journalist Tracie McMillan saw foodies swooning over \$9 organic tomatoes, she couldn't help but wonder: What about the rest of us? Why do working Americans eat the way we do? And what can we do to change it? To find out, McMillan went undercover in three jobs that feed America, living and eating off her wages in each. Reporting from California fields, a Wal-Mart produce aisle outside of Detroit, and the kitchen of a New York City Applebee's, McMillan examines the reality of our country's food industry in this "clear and essential" (*The Boston Globe*) work of reportage. Chronicling her own experience and that of the Mexican garlic crews,

Midwestern produce managers, and Caribbean line cooks with whom she works, McMillan goes beyond the food on her plate to explore the national priorities that put it there. Fearlessly reported and beautifully written, *The American Way of Eating* goes beyond statistics and culture wars to deliver a book that is fiercely honest, strikingly intelligent, and compulsively readable. In making the simple case that — city or country, rich or poor — everyone wants good food, McMillan guarantees that talking about dinner will never be the same again.

- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Matthew Desmond)
 - In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.
- *Reading With Patrick* (Michelle Kuo)
 - Recently graduated from Harvard University, Michelle Kuo arrived in the rural town of Helena, Arkansas, as a Teach for America volunteer, bursting with optimism and drive. But she soon encountered the jarring realities of life in one of the poorest counties in America, still disabled by the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. In this stirring memoir, Kuo, the child of Taiwanese immigrants, shares the story of her complicated but rewarding mentorship of one student, Patrick Browning, and his remarkable literary and personal awakening.

Assignment:

[Click here](#) for requirements.

English 12: Creative Writing

“Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere. Start by getting something — anything — down on paper. A friend of mine says that the first draft is the down draft — you just get it down. The second draft is the up draft — you fix it up.”

--Anne Lamott

Please read one of the following:

- *Me Talk Pretty One Day* (David Sedaris)
 - A recent transplant to Paris, humorist David Sedaris, bestselling author of "Naked," presents a collection of his strongest work yet, including the title story about his hilarious attempt to learn French.
- *Bossy Pants* (Tina Fey)
 - Spirited and whip-smart, these laugh-out-loud autobiographical essays are "a masterpiece" from the Emmy Award-winning actress and comedy writer known for 30 Rock, Mean Girls, and SNL (Sunday Telegraph).

Please read the following:

- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* (Stephen King)
 - Immensely helpful and illuminating to any aspiring writer, this special edition of Stephen King's critically lauded, million-copy bestseller shares the experiences, habits, and convictions that have shaped him and his work.

Assignment:

Please read both texts and come to class the first day of school with the following written items:

- Choose three of your favorite passages from *Me Talk Pretty One Day* or *Bossy Pants* and in three paragraphs explain what resonated with you. Why did these passages draw you in? What writing techniques did Sedaris or Fey use to capture your attention? Did this remind you of any personal experiences?
- Pick the piece of advice about writing that struck you in *On Writing*. In a well-written page, explain why you think this advice is important. How have you used or will you use this advice? How do you hope to use this advice in your own writing?

English 12: Literary Labyrinths

“We all live in a kind of continuous dream,” I told him. “When we wake, it is because something, some event, some pinprick even, disturbs the edges of what we’ve taken as reality.”

--Jeff Vandermeer

Choose **one** of the following books to read and **one** of the listed films to watch. Your writing assignment comparing them is due **Monday, August 19th** (the day before we leave for Camp Manito-wish) and can be found [here](#). If you have questions, email Dr. Wheeler at rwheeler@prairieschool.com.

Book options:

- *Whiskey, Tango, Foxtrot* (David Shafer) -- NOT the one that got made into the film!
 - The Committee, an international cabal of industrialists and media barons, is on the verge of privatizing all information. Dear Diary, an idealistic online Underground, stands in the way of that takeover, using radical politics, classic spycraft, and technology that makes Big Data look like dial-up. Into this secret battle stumbles an unlikely trio: Leila Majnoun, a disillusioned non-profit worker; Leo Crane, an unhinged trustafarian; and Mark Deveraux, a phony self-betterment guru who works for the Committee.
- *Get in Trouble: Stories* (Kelly Link)
 - Link has won an ardent following for her ability, with each new short story, to take readers deeply into an unforgettable, brilliantly constructed fictional universe. The nine exquisite examples in this collection show her in full command of her formidable powers. In “The Summer People,” a young girl in rural North Carolina serves as uneasy caretaker to the mysterious, never-quite-glimpsed visitors who inhabit the cottage behind her house. In “I Can See Right Through You,” a middle-aged movie star makes a disturbing trip to the Florida swamp where his former on- and off-screen love interest is shooting a ghost-hunting reality show. In “The New Boyfriend,” a suburban slumber party takes an unusual turn, and a teenage friendship is tested, when the spoiled birthday girl opens her big present: a life-size animated doll.
- *The Lathe of Heaven* (Ursula LeGuin)
 - In a future world racked by violence and environmental catastrophes, George Orr wakes up one day to discover that his dreams have the ability to alter reality. He seeks help from Dr. William Haber, a psychiatrist who immediately grasps the power George wields. Soon George must preserve reality itself as Dr. Haber becomes adept at manipulating George’s dreams for his own purposes.
- *Lagoon* (Nnedi Okorafor)
 - It’s up to a famous rapper, a biologist, and a rogue soldier to handle humanity’s first contact with an alien ambassador — and prevent mass extinction — in this novel that blends magical realism with high-stakes action in Nigeria’s diverse city of Lagos.
- *Lincoln in the Bardo* (George Saunders)
 - February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln’s beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. “My poor boy, he was too good for this earth,” the president says at the time. “God has called him home.” Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy’s body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state — called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo — a

monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

Film options:

- *Fight Club*
- *Primer*
- *Rashomon*
- *Twelve Monkeys*
- *Shutter Island*

AP English 12

“He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.”

-- George Orwell

Everyone should read the required book below, and one choice book for your AP Portfolio (see instructions in Google Classroom):

- *Crime and Punishment* (Fyodor Dostoyevsky)
Please find the Vintage Classics edition, ISBN 978-0099981909*
 - Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, wanders through the slums of St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck. Only Sonya, a downtrodden prostitute, can offer the chance of redemption.

***Note: The edition of *Crime & Punishment* listed above is the best translation and is worth seeking out. Ms. Davis will give you separate instructions, activities, and due dates via Google Classroom before school's end.**

AP Spanish

“There is no book so bad that it does not have something bueno in it.”

(No hay libro tan malo que no tenga algo bueno)

-- Miguel de Cervantes

Please [click here](#) for instructions for reading, writing, and speaking components.

AP U.S. History

"History is a set of lies agreed upon."

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

Everyone should read the following book:

- [Lies My Teacher Told Me](#) (Dr. James Loewen)
 - Americans have lost touch with their history, and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, he has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past. In this revised edition, packed with updated material, Loewen explores how historical myths continue to be perpetuated in today's climate and adds an eye-opening chapter on the lies surrounding 9/11 and the Iraq War. From the truth about Columbus's historic voyages to an honest evaluation of our national leaders, Loewen revives our history, restoring the vitality and relevance it truly possesses.

Assignment:

See [Special Instructions](#) from Dr. French about the expectations for this reading.

AP World History

“To pull away from its rivals on a global scale, a society must pull into itself and motivate the world’s best and brightest, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or background. This is what every hyperpower in history has done, from Archaemenid Persia to the Great Mongol Empire to the British Empire, and the way they have done it is through tolerance.”

-- Amy Chua

Required Materials:

- *Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance and Why They Fall* (Amy Chua)
 - Historians have long debated the rise and fall of empires. To date, however, no one has studied the far rarer phenomenon of hyperpowers--those few societies that amassed such extraordinary military and economic might that they essentially dominated the world. Here, globalization expert Chua explains how hyperpowers rise and why they fall. She examines history's hyperpowers — Persia, Rome, Tang China, the Mongols, the Dutch, the British, and the United States — and reveals the reasons behind their success, as well as the roots of their ultimate demise. For all their differences, she argues, every one of these world-dominant powers was, at least by the standards of its time, extraordinarily pluralistic and tolerant, succeeding by harnessing the skills and energies of individuals from very different backgrounds. But Chua also uncovers a great historical irony: in virtually every instance, multicultural tolerance eventually sowed the seeds of decline, and diversity became a liability
- **Composition Notebook** (Black and White Marbled, Hardcover)
 - Composition notebook is preferred — easier to collect, pages stay intact, hard cover protects it from the elements.

Assignment:

- Read and take notes in a composition notebook on Chua’s *Day of Empire* — Introduction, Chapters 2-5, and Chapter 12.
- Answer these guiding questions:
 - Introduction, Chapters 2, 3 and 4: What elements are present in hyperpowers and what led to their decline?
 - Chapter 5: What forms did intolerance take in Spain? What was the cost of this intolerance Spain?
 - Chapter 12: What are the current threats and challenges to the American Empire?
- Specific examples (plural) from each empire must be identified.