

**Barrington High School Social Studies Department
Recommended Reading and Required Reading
Summer 2010**

With the exception of AP United States History and AP World History, there will be no required readings in any social studies class this summer. However, we have lots of great books to recommend for your reading pleasure. Enjoy.

REQUIRED READINGS:

AP World History: Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond

* More detailed information on Mrs. McCarthy's website

AP United States History: *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis AND *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen. Students can get these books at the Library or purchase them. There will be major assignments from each book during the first few weeks of school.

With the exception of AP United States History and AP World History there will be no required summer reading in World History 111, 112 or U.S History 221, 222 or American Studies 225 (U.S. History component). We do, however, have lots of suggestions for your reading enjoyment. These are Social Studies faculty favorites: Enjoy !

WORLD HISTORY

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier.

Chevalier's historical novel tells the story of Griet, a 16-year-old Dutch girl who becomes a maid in the house of the painter Johannes Vermeer. Her calm and perceptive manner not only helps her in her household duties, but also attracts the painter's attention. As Griet becomes part of her master's work, their relationship spreads disruption and jealousy within the ordered household and beyond. Grades 9-10

Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier

The historical fiction piece, Falling Angels is a work set in Victorian England. Here Tracy Chevalier weaves a tale of the entwining lives of people from different social classes and how they react both to the women's suffrage movement and to day to day activities. Through the perspectives of several characters, Falling Angels transports the reader back to an ever-changing time during turn of the century England. Grade/Interest Level: 9-12.

The Examination by Malcolm Bosse.

Fifteen-year-old Hong and his older brother Chen face famine, flood, pirates, and jealous rivals on their journey through fifteenth century China as Chen pursues his calling as a

scholar and Hong becomes involved with a secret society known as the White Lotus. Grade level 9-10. An easy read.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa Lee.

This historical set in remote 19th-century China details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends (laotong, or 'old sames') Lily and Snow Flower, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love. See's in-depth research into women's ceremonies and duties in China's rural interior brings fascinating revelations about arranged marriages, women's inferior status in both their natal and married homes, and the Confucian proverbs and myriad superstitions that informed daily life. Gr. 9-12 (For the mature reader)

Nathaniel's Nutmeg by Giles Milton.

Would you believe that nutmeg formed the basis of one of the most bitter international conflicts of the 17th century, and was also intimately connected to New York City's rise to global preeminence? Strange but true: nutmeg was, in fact, one of the most prized commodities in Renaissance Europe, and this fascinating story is told in Giles Milton's fascinating historical novel. Grades 9-10

Longitude by Dava Sobel.

While Columbus and others before and after him, sailed the ocean blue along parallels of latitude, remained a matter of dead reckoning. When dead reckoning was wrong many maritime tragedies occurred forcing the the British government action to do. Longitude is the story of the lone genius who solved the greatest scientific problem of the time.

Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya.

This short novel introduces Western students to life in rural India and the changes that occurred during that country's British colonization. On the most basic level, it is the story of an arranged but loving marriage and rural peasant life. On another level, it is a tale of an unconquerable human spirit that overcomes poverty and unending misfortune. This short novel is also about the conflicts that arise between a traditional agricultural culture and a growing industrial. The story illustrates the importance of traditional cultural practices, as well as people's reluctance to change, and the impact of that reluctance. Grades 9-10.

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie.

This beautifully written, but very short novel, tracks the lives of two teens, childhood friends who have been sent to a small Chinese village for "re-education" during Mao's Cultural Revolution. The book is a simple story that tells of a classic boy-meets-girl scenario, with a surprising bite at the finish. The story captures the Cultural Revolution's attempt to imprison the mind and heart, as well as the triumph of the secret love of books. Grade 11-12. For the mature reader.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini .

An eye-opening account of pre and post Taliban Afghanistan. Engaging and provocative story of Amir and his servant friend, Hassan. Some mature material. High Reading/Interest Level: 11-12 th grade

The Border of Truth by Victoria Redel

Victoria Redel's The Border of Truth gives a new and unique perspective of the Holocaust. Set both in September of 1940 & today, Redel's central character Itzak Lejdel chronicles his passage from Lisbon to the United States on the refugee ship, the Quanza. In the past Lejdel is an adolescent boy trying to achieve freedom, while in the present he is an aging father trying to escape his past. Grade/Interest Level: 9-12

This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff

Tobias Wolff's memoir of This Boy's Life is a coming of age story about a teenage boy's struggle to navigate through a difficult home life and achieve his dreams. Filled with both humorous and heartbreaking recollections, Wolff turns back time and transports the reader back to his experiences as an adolescent before he was a successful author. Though not World History related at all, it is one of my (Ms. McKenney) favorite books, and there is a very good film based on the novel as well. (Grades 9-10)

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

A first hand account into the 1990's Sierra Leone civil war, told through the eyes of a boy soldier. Grades 9-12

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond

A geographic and ecological view of why some societies have survived and others have become extinct. (For above grade level readers)

Wild Swans – Three Daughters of China by Jung Chang

A wonderful story of multi-generational women in 20th century China. (For mature readers)

UNITED STATES HISTORY and AMERICAN STUDIES

Lies My Teacher Told Me by James Loewen

If you want to read about the stories behind the stories you must read this book. The author discusses various eras of American history through perspectives that are often ignored...and he rips into some textbooks in the process!!! Reading level 9-12

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick

Hot off the press...new portrait of the dawn of American history by renowned author of *The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*). Reading/Interest: 11-12 grade

Sons of Providence: The Brown Brothers, the Slave Trade and The American Revolution by Charles Rappleye

Local RI history at its best...challenging but definitely rewarding for the independent reader. Reading/Interest Level: 10-12 . For the reader who likes a challenge

John Adams by David McCullough.

John Adams is perhaps the most comprehensive and prolifically written biography on John Adams, and a great contribution to the study of America during the Revolutionary Era and the Era of the New Republic. Appropriate for high reading level and interest in history.

March by Geraldine Brooks.

Everyone knows about Louisa May Alcott "Little Women." However, Geraldine Brooks has written a wonderfully engaging story of the little women's absent father. This engaging historical novel follows Chaplain March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will ultimately change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. Grade 10-12

Manhunt: The Twelve Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

A very interesting read on the assassination of President Lincoln followed by the two week hunt for his killer, John Wilkes Booth. Recommended for mature readers interested in American history

Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley

An excellent read on the Allied invasion of Iwo Jima. Includes detailed information on the type of fighting that took place in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Recommended for mature readers interested in American history.

Fly Boys by James Bradley

Written by same author as Flags of Our Fathers. The book discusses the World War II Pacific campaign from the perspective of nine bomber pilots whose planes were shot down and whose personal stories were never known. Book provides a chilling and thought-provoking look into the culture differences between America and Japan at the time of the war. (For the mature reader)

Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson

A captivating story of two men and their determination to unearth the remains of a sunken German U-Boat off the coast of New Jersey. This book is an absolute page-turner!!! Very accessible for grades 9-12

Truman by David McCullough.

McCullough book is widely regarded as the seminal biography on President H. S. Truman. McCullough gives readers great insight into one of the most sensitive times in America History, as Truman led the nation through the end of the World War II, Korea, and The cold War began during his Presidency. Appropriate for high reading level and interest in history.

Voices from Vietnam by Barry Denenberg

This is a fast, chilling read for all students! This book vividly illustrates the war in Vietnam with shocking statistics and first-hand accounts to capture the true essence of the

conflict. Once you start, you will not be able to put the book down. Great for all reading levels!

Left for Dead: The Story of the U.S.S. Indianapolis by Peter Nelson

The true story of Hunter Scott, who first heard the story of the "USS Indianapolis" while watching the film "Jaws." Investigating the disaster for a history fair project, Hunter found records of the shameful court-martial of the ship's captain--shameful because the loss of the ship was not his fault and the Navy knew it. Hunter became the catalyst for the survivors' efforts to clear their captain's name and set the record straight. This is a very easy read and an engaging, fast paced story. If you like non-fiction, this is for you. Grades 9-10

Peace, Not Apartheid by Jimmy Carter

Interested in the United States' view on world conflict? Then this is for you! The former President of the United States provides a candid view of his feelings regarding the ongoing war between the Arabs and Israelis in the Middle East. He discusses American foreign policy and the role that the US plays in this on-going war for peace. A very informative, interesting book for mature readers!

The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw

"They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America — men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today." Tom Brokaw brings to life the extraordinary stories of a generation that gave new meaning to courage, sacrifice, honor. Grades 10-12

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

In his compelling memoir, President Obama speaks about his journey through childhood to understand the forces that shaped his life. As the son of a black African father and white American mother, he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and confronts the truth about his father abandoning him and his mother at a young age. A great personal glimpse into the life of America's first African-American president! Grades 10-12

ECONOMICS

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

A great read for 11th and 12th graders! Ehrenreich takes a break from her normal everyday life and decides to view America from a different perspective...a low wage earner. She writes about what it was like to work in some of America's least attractive jobs and her new-found respect for those who do. Her experiences are comical, yet very eye-opening- especially for students who are about to enter the workforce. A fast read!

The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman.

Welcome to Globalization 3.0 or how to participate in a fully integrated economic world system and still save your job ! What will it take for the U.S. to compete in the new integrated world economy ? Read to find out ! Your future could be at stake ! Reading level/interest: 11-12th grade

Freakonomics by Steven Levitt & Steven Dubner

If you hate economics...or, think you hate it....this book is for you..... Econ for Dummies. Buying a house and negotiating a commission with your real estate agent ? Read this book to find out what the real bottom line is ! Reading/Interest Level: 11-12 th grade

Confessions of An Economic Hit Man by John Perkins

An intriguing look into the relations between the United States and foreign countries during the 1970s and 1980s when it came to economic development. Recommended for mature readers interested in U.S. foreign diplomacy or globalization.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama

Good reading for incoming juniors scheduled to take American Government. The book provides an insightful look into a very intriguing 2008 presidential candidate. Reading level: 10-12

All the President's Men by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

A great book detailing the very shocking details of the undoing of President Nixon. Washington Post reporters Woodward and Bernstein give new meaning to investigative journalism. Sometimes the truth is much more exciting than fiction! Grades 11-12

Primary Colors. Anonymous author.

This is a great book that is remarkably similar to Bill Clinton's 1992 Presidential campaign. Many critics have theorized that the book is more truth than fiction and that all of the text's contents are actual events from the 1992 Clinton campaign machine. The book takes us through the primaries in New Hampshire, potentially devastating scandals, and more. Grades 11-12

Sneaking Into the Flying Circus: How the Media Turn Our Presidential Campaigns into Freak Shows, by Alexandra Pelosi.

This is a great look into the messy game of Presidential campaigning. In our American Government course, we watch a documentary filmed by this author; her book is just as interesting and provocative. She shows us how the media is instrumental in making or breaking a Presidential hopeful. A must read for an inside look at modern campaigning. Grades 11-12

Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror by Richard Clarke

Ex C.I.A. Director Richard Clarke chronicles how different Presidential administrations handled and mishandled terrorism. (For above grade level mature readers)

SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Blink by Malcolm Gladwell

A fascinating look at the science behind old fashioned "intuition" and gut feelings....a quick read. Reading/Interest Level: 10-12 grade

Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

Equally fascinating look at the "tipping points" that cause mass changes in ideas and social behaviors...fast read also !) Reading level/interest: 10-12 Grade

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

"Outlier" is a scientific term used to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. In his third blockbuster book, Gladwell studies personal success stories and discovers that the true secret to success is a group project! It will cause you to rethink your own ideas about ability, motivation – and serendipity ! Reading/Interest Level: Grades 10-12

Sybil by Flora Schreiber

A classic story of a young woman who was alleged to have 16 personalities. (For mature readers)

Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders by Vincent Bugliosi.

A chilling look into the infamous Manson Family trial written by the lead prosecutor. (For mature readers)

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden.

Chiyo, a pretty young child of an impoverished fishing family is taken to faraway Kyoto and sold into slavery to a renowned geisha house where she is renamed Sayuri. Through her eyes, we are given a backstage view of the ancient and secretive geisha district, Gion, and of the lives of the women who learn and practice the rigorous arts of the geisha. (For the mature reader)

A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood.

A look into the future; what could happen to our world. (For the mature reader)

Queen Bees and Wannabees by Rosalind Wiseman.

A disturbing look into cliques, gossip, and other realities of middle school and high school life. (For the mature reader)

