

June 11, 2019

Dear Incoming Humanities Students,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Humanities! For this upcoming school year, Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Miller will be co-teaching your humanities class, where we will be fusing both social studies and language arts concepts into one course. We promise that this is going to be a new and exciting class that will give you the opportunity to have a unique and challenging learning experience!

In order to prepare for the year ahead, we are asking that you select a book from your grade's specified time period and then complete a virtual "bulletin board" to showcase your understanding and connections with the text. This upcoming school year is going to be all about your "voice and choice" as you learn about literacy concepts through a historical lens, so we thought this summer reading assignment is a great way to introduce you to the way this class will operate! We want you to find what resources work best for you, so have fun with this!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email us anytime! For the summer reading assignment, Mrs. Gilbert will be the person to contact for any questions from incoming 8th graders, and Mrs. Miller will be the person to contact for incoming 7th graders. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gilbert

agilbert@sau50.org

Mrs. Miller

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HUMANITIES SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Book Selection

You are to select a historical fiction novel from the designated time period assigned to your grade. Be sure to pick a book that fits you and is preferably one that you have not read yet!

7th Graders: 1789 - 1900

Sample Topics: The Bill of Rights, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, Reconstruction, The American Industrial Revolution

8th Graders: 1900 - 1980

Sample Topics: WWI in England, America during The Great Depression, WWII on the homefront, Nazi Germany, Nazi occupied Poland, USSR during the Cold War

Here are some great online resources to help you select your text:

- ★ <https://www.goodreads.com/genres/young-adult-historical-fiction>
- ★ <https://redwing.lib.mn.us/25-historical-fiction-books-2/>
- ★ <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/historical-fiction-teen-young-adult>
- ★ <https://www.epicreads.com/blog/2018-historical-fiction-young-adult-books/>

Project Task

After you have finished your book, you are going to use www.padlet.com to construct a “bulletin board” that represents characters, themes, and main events from your text. Sign up using your Google account. (It’s pretty fun to choose the different layouts and backgrounds. Be creative!)

This board should contain **at least ten** of the following items:

- Pictures (from free online sources) from the location/time period (pictures have something to do with the novel)

- No more than three pictures on the bulletin board
- Video from time period
 - One video
- Original writing describing the setting
- Original writing describing the character (can be in first person)
- Original writing describing a significant minor character
- Quote from the book
 - No more than two
- Original photographs (taken by you) that are significant to the book
 - No more than two
- A “thank you” note the main character might have written (in your own words)
- A shopping list with 6-8 items the character might have created
- A “list of things to do” the main character might have made
- Original artwork created by you
 - No more than three

PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

A major part of our humanities course will be encouraging you to take ownership of your own learning. Listed below are the expectations for this project. As you complete this assignment, we would like you to think about what would define projects that exceed expectations, are approaching expectations, or demonstrate limited progress. Be sure to jot down any thought you may have because we will be discussing this the first week of school. This is where you get to really have your voice in how you are graded and assessed!

4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	3 MEETS EXPECTATIONS	2 APPROACHING EXPECTATIONS	1 LIMITED PROGRESS
	Bulletin board has at least ten items that are related to the novel: demonstrate understanding of plot, setting, character		
	Bulletin board demonstrates clear character change: *setting influences main character *minor character(s) influence main character *specific plot points influence main character		
	Writing analyzes the meaning behind the novel through two to three explanations of plot or character		
	Bulletin board demonstrates clear effort related to: *organization *creativity *effort		