

**AP US History**  
**Mrs. Schools**  
**Summer Assignment for Sophomores and Juniors**

Your summer assignment is to read *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriett Beecher Stowe and *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. These are two books that we will speak about and reference often once we get to the antebellum period and the progressive era, respectively. Your enduring understanding of the themes of these two novels and the impact they have on American history is important.

We are not reading *Animal Farm* this year over the summer so do not buy that book. Please DO buy John P. Irish's *Historical Thinking Skills: Workbook for U.S. History*. We will need that at the beginning of the school year. You will be provided with a textbook in September. Do NOT purchase one! We are getting new books, which is why we are not doing textbook chapters over the summer.

For *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, you will choose one of the writing prompts below and answer in a five-paragraph essay. For *The Jungle*, you will answer the questions that follow for AP PARTS (below). You will answer in complete sentences and use Times New Roman 12-point font for all of your work. All work will be submitted on Canvas the first week of school. Actual due dates will be announced once Canvas is populated.

**Writing Prompt for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriett Beecher Stowe**  
**Choose only ONE of these!**

Please choose one of the following writing prompts. You will turn this in on Canvas during the first week of school. Exact due dates will be announced once Canvas is populated in August. Please respond in a five-paragraph essay with a well-developed thesis and supporting evidence. Please be sure to use quotes where necessary to back up your thesis. Please document your quotes with the MLA method. Please indicate which question you are choosing by putting a title at the top of your essay like this:

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Writing Prompt #x

1. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was such a groundbreaking novel at the time of its publication and is still considered to be a critical piece of literature that defines the era in which it was written. Based upon your reading of the book and your prior knowledge of the time period, why is this novel so impactful?
2. Describe the role of women in the novel. How is the life of women living in antebellum (before the Civil War) America defined based upon their socioeconomic situation, race, age, religion or any other defining characteristic? What role do women have during this time period? Evaluate to what extent they are effective in bringing about change and describe what burdens, if any, they may carry.

3. Describe the role of religion in the novel. How does Stowe use religion to measure slavery? How is Christianity depicted in the story and what effect does religion have on the people living during this time period?
4. Analyze to what extent the characters in the novel who were enslaved are portrayed in an in a historically accurate way. (This question may be better for the juniors who have already had Colonial American History.)
5. Describe what Stowe's main concerns are for the slaves. According to the author, what are the challenges and devastations that slaves face and how does she depict these things? What can we infer from Stowe's background and writing about her thoughts on the "peculiar institution" of slavery?

### **AP PARTS QUESTIONS FOR THE JUNGLE**

Just answer these as questions. Number them 1. 2. And so on. Do not write a paper or an essay. Do a little research on the author and the reasons for him writing this book. You need a little background knowledge to fully understand the novel. There are many sources online to find out about Upton Sinclair.

#### **AUTHOR**

1. Who created the source? 2. What do you know about the author? 3. What is the author's point of view?

#### **PLACE AND TIME**

4. Where and when was the source produced? 5. How might this affect the meaning of the source?

#### **PRIOR KNOWLEDGE**

6. Beyond information about the author and the context of its creation, what do you know that would help you further understanding the primary source? 7. For example, do you recognize any symbols and recall what they represented?

#### **AUDIENCE**

8. For whom was the source created and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

#### **REASON**

9. Why was this source produced and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

#### **THE MAIN IDEA**

10. What point is the source trying to convey?

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

11. Why is the source important?