

Mrs. Schools
AP US History
Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP US History! You will read a book of your choice (from the list down below) and write a book review and also pick one of the thematic learning objectives and write up how your book meets the objective.

I have listed the books mostly by time period, but some are categorized as themes or events. What you need to do is pick a book and put your name next to the one you want on the Google Sheet that I will share with you. Once all of the slots for a certain book are filled, you cannot pick it. There are three slots for each book. This is to make for a rich discussion when we get back to school in August. I do not want everyone to read the same book. Look the books up and see what interests you. Explore them all – do not just pick something randomly – see what is interesting to you.

You will pick **one** of the **Thematic Learning Objectives** listed below and discuss how your book fits in to it. For example, if you read a book about immigration – maybe pick migration and settlement. Why did the characters emigrate? Why did they leave their native country and how do they migrate to and within America?

In AP US History, our objective is to be able to understand the thematic learning objectives of American history. Those are:

1. American National Identity
2. Politics and Power
3. Work, Exchange, Technology
4. Culture and Society
5. Migration and Settlement
6. Geography and the Environment
7. America in the World

So, answer the question-

How is the thematic learning objective you picked evident in the book you read? By this I mean, how does the author or characters give explanation of your chosen thematic learning objective? How can we understand the thematic learning objective through the books you chose? What evidence does the author include?

This should be a well thought out response (approximately 2 pages in length) complete with evidence and MLA parenthetical citations. Find evidence in your books to back up the theme you choose. **See below list of Thematic Learning Objective guided questions from the College Board.**

Thematic Learning Objectives

When you are doing your write up on the Thematic Learning Objectives evidenced in your book, here are some questions to help you. Basically, you need to find an objective below that relates to your book. As an example, if your book is about immigration, you will probably pick migration and settlement and describe how your book fits into this thematic learning objective. Use the info on this sheet as a guide and be sure to include quotes from your book to drive home your point. The number of quotes is up to you, but you should at least have two.

You do not have to answer the questions below specifically – they are guidelines and thinking points!

1. American National Identity

--How and why have debates over American national identity changed over time?
--How have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different eras?

In relation to your book: during the time period your book is set in, what was America's identity? Were we still a colony of Britain or were we our own nation? Were we powerful or not? Was the US united or divided as it was in the Civil War?

2. Work, Exchange, and Technology

--How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day?

--Why have different labor systems developed in British North America and the United States, and how have they affected U.S. society?

--How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the U.S. economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?

In relation to your book: How does your character make a livelihood and is that a main theme of the book? Does he or she emigrate from a poor country to come here for work?

How have innovations in American technology helped make us the nation that we are?

3. Migration and Settlement

--Why have people migrated to, from, and within North America?

--How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

In relation to your book – how do the characters move to and within America? Why do they do so?

4. Politics and Power

--How and why have different political and social groups competed for influence over society and government in what would become the United States?

--How have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system, as well as who is a part of the political process?

In relation to your book, you would talk about anything that has to do with government, politics or military here.

5. America in the World

- How have events in North America and the United States related to contemporary developments in the rest of the world?
- How have different factors influenced U.S. military, diplomatic, and economic involvement in international affairs and foreign conflicts, both in North America and overseas?

In relation to your book: What is our place in the world in the time your book is set? Are we a colony, a world power, a leader, etc.?

6. Geography and the Environment

- How did interactions with the natural environment shape the institutions and values of various groups living on the North American continent?
- How did economic and demographic changes affect the environment and lead to debates over use and control of the environment and natural resources?

In relation to your book: How do the characters interact with the environment? Do they use it respectfully? Do they use it to survive? Are they the way they are because of the environment?

7. Culture and Society

- How and why have moral, philosophical, and cultural values changed in what would become the United States?
- How and why have changes in moral, philosophical, and cultural values affected U.S. history?

In relation to your book: Culture has to do with religion, ethnicities, values, societal norms, population shifts. Do the characters in your book fit into society? Do they clash? Are they a certain religion or ethnicity? Do they come here for religious freedom?

AP US History Summer Reading Choices

Spots are limited, so please do this as soon as you can. Research your book and choose one that interest you. IF your book is also a movie and your watch the movie and do not read the book, I will be able to tell! Also, please make sure you have the correct author and book. There are many books with similar or the same titles out there!

1600s

Mayflower, A Story of Courage, Community and War– Nathaniel Philbrick

The Heretic's Daughter – Kathleen Kent

A Mercy – Toni Morrison

The Puritan Dilemma, the Story of John Winthrop – Edmund S. Morgan
The Crucible – Arthur Miller

1700s

Never Caught, the Washington's Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge – Erica Armstrong Dunbar
The Invention of Wings – Sue Monk Kidd
Virginia Dynasty – Lynn Chaney
Paul Revere's Ride – David Hackett
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin– Benjamin Franklin

1800s

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – Frederick Douglass
Twelve Years a Slave – Solomon Winthrop
The Daring Ladies of Lowell – Kate Alcott
Days without End – Sebastian Barry
Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee – Dee Brown
The Amistad Rebellion – An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom – Marcus Rediker
Destiny of the Republic – A Tale of Madness, Medicine and Murder of a President – Candice Millard
My Antonía – Willa Cather
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl – Harriett Jacobs
Ordeal by Hunger – The Story of the Donner Party – George R. Stewart
Far and Away – Sonia Massie
The Invention of Wings – Sue Monk Kidd

Civil War/Reconstruction

Troubled Refuge, Struggling to Find Freedom in the Civil War – Chandra Manning
Cold Mountain – Charles Frazier
Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker -Jennifer Chiaverini
Manhunt – The 12 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer – James L. Swanson
Widow of the South – Robert Hicks
Reconstruction - America's Unfinished Revolution 1863 -1877 – Eric Foner

Turn of 20th century, early 1900s

Up from Slavery – Booker T. Washington
The Soul of Black Folks – W.E.B. DuBois
Triangle, the Fire that Changed America – David Von Drehle
How the Other Half Lives – Jacob Riis
The Jungle – Upton Sinclair
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith
Twenty Years at Hull House – Jane Addams
Devil in the White City – Erik Larson

1920s

Babbitt – Sinclair Lewis
This Side of Paradise – F. Scott Fitzgerald
A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemmingway
Not Without Laughter – Langston Hughes
Home to Harlem – Claude McKay

Great Depression, 1930s

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men – James Agee and Walker Evans
The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck
The Worst Hard Time, the Untold Story of those who Survived the Dust Bowl - Timothy Egan

World War II

Helmet for my Pillow – Robert Leckie
When the Emperor was Divine – Julie Otsuka
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford
Facing the Mountain – Daniel James Brown

1950s and 1960s

The Feminine Mystique – Betty Freidan
A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry
Silent Spring – Rachel Carson
The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan

Civil Rights Movement

A Song Flung up to Heaven by Maya Angelou
The Grace of Silence by Michele Norris
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
In My Place by Charlayne Hunter-Gault
The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou
The Help – Katheryn Stockett

Vietnam War

The Things they carried – Tim O'Brien
American Reckoning – The Vietnam War and our National Identity – Christian G. Appy
Speak, Okinawa – Elizabeth Miki Brina

Immigration

The Far Away Brothers, Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life – Lauren Markham
This Side of Brightness – Colum McCann

Homecoming – Yaa Gyasi

The Bad Muslim Discount – Syed M. Mossad

A Place for Us – Fatima Farheen Mirza

Heart of Fire – Mazie K. Hirono

'Tis – Frank McCourt

*PLEASE NOTE: SOME OF THE BOOKS LISTED MAY CONTAIN SITUATIONS AND LANGUAGE FROM THE HISTORICAL TIME PERIOD IN WHICH THEY WERE WRITTEN OR SET.

Additionally, you will write a book review also on your book with the attached rubric and directions. In August when Canvas is populated, I will put a place for you to turn each thing in as an online submission. See book review information at the very bottom of this document. Be prepared to have a discussion when we return to school. Please email me with any questions at aschools@msjacad.org.

Requirements for book review:

Your book review should be a five-paragraph essay that is about 3-4 pages in length inclusive of the following information;

I. Introduction

- A. Why did you choose this book?
- B. Brief introduction to story

II. Plot summary/Theme of book

- A. What is the main idea of the book?
- B. How does it relate to the Civil Rights Movement and what we are studying in class?
- C. Where does it take place?
- D. Who are the main characters?
- E. What happens?
- G. What efforts did the characters in your book make toward equality and how were they received by the public?
- H. How does reading this book open your eyes to American history?

III. Your Review

- A. Would you recommend this book to a friend/classmate?
- B. Why or why not?

- C. Did you like the book? Why or why not?

- D. What suggestions would you make to the author to make it better if you did not enjoy it?

IV. Character identification

- A. With which character did you most identify?
- B. Why?
- C. What did you like about this character?

V. Summary/Conclusion

- A. What did you learn from reading this book?
- B. How has reading this book enhanced your knowledge of American history?
- C. Summarize your thoughts

Rubric - Project is worth a maximum of 48 points – Five points deducted per day late.

Grammar/Spelling/ Punctuation	There are no errors 12 points	There are 1 to 3 errors 11 – 9 points	There are 4 errors or less 8-5 points	There are more than 5 errors 5 points or less
Historical Accuracy	Book review is in line with storyline of book 12 points	Book review has 1 – 3 discrepancies 11-9 points	Book review has more than 3 discrepancies 8-5 points	It is evident that student did not read this book 5 points or less
Interest	Book review is well written and very interesting 12 points	Book review was interesting to read 11-9 points	Writer had little to no details that were interesting or poignant 8-5 points	It is evident that writer of this review did not take the time to include enough detail 5 points or less
Persuasiveness	After reading this book review, I was able to see writer’s point of view 12 points	Writer had plenty of details but did not get her point across 11-9 points	Writer was lacking enough details for reader to make a decision about reading this book 8-5 points	It is evident that writer did not put enough into the review for one to decide if she should read it or not 5 points or less