

Sophomore Honors US History First Weeks of School Reading Assignment

Welcome to Sophomore Honors US History! We request you read one exceptionally good and important piece of literature prior to the third week of classes, September 3, for the 2018-2019 school year. You do not have to read this over the summer but it may be advantageous for you to do so in order that you do not have to read the entire book when you return to school. The book and requirements are as follows:

Title: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Harriet Beecher Stowe)

Requirements: You will be reading a book that at one point in American History was banned in nearly half the nation. Read, reread, ponder, jot notes, and know this novel. An assessment of this novel – in the form of an objective test and a written assessment – will occur in the third week of school on September 3; it consists of a thorough examination of your skills as an analytical reader. Therefore, it is imperative that you know the difference between reading a book for pleasure and analyzing a work of literature in a scholarly manner so that you can write effectively on it, using specific and precise evidence (though you should enjoy reading this work as well). *As you read pay attention to the historical context, get a copy with a good introduction and read it. This book was released in the early 1850's. What effect did it have on the American people? How does Stowe write, and how is she seeking to affect the American people? Why do some historians say that this was the most impactful novel ever written in American History?*

We *highly* suggest you purchase your own copy of this book. Most libraries, however, do have copies that you can obtain if needed. They may also have audio copies if that is something that helps you. Do not get an abridged (shortened) version.

Though they will not be graded, annotations for your reading will be helpful, and, quite frankly, should be given for any academic reading by this point in your education. This is the reason for purchasing your own copy as you may not write in library copies.

We hope you enjoy reading this monumental work and we look forward to having you in class. Have a historic summer!

Thank you,

Mr. Burak and Dr. Hill