

May 26, 2010

Re: Summer Reading for AP World History

Dear Parent/Guardian of Future AP World History Student:

In preparation for the 2010/2011 school year's focused academic pace, students who will be taking AP World History are expected to read the following over the summer break:

1. Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond
2. Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

For Guns, Germs, and Steel, students will be expected to keep a journal about each chapter, summarizing each section of the chapter using a Cornell notes style. The journal needs to be kept in a spiral notebook and notes should be legible (A typed journal is also acceptable). Students will be expected to turn in their Guns, Germs, and Steel journals within the first week of the 2010/2011 school year. Additionally, there will be an exam at the end of that first week, covering the entirety of the book.

For Things Fall Apart, students are to create a visual representation [video, powerpoint, or trifold (the trifold will need an additional paper on the topic)] of how European imperialism is depicted in the novel. Students should discuss whether or not it is an accurate portrayal of the era, of the places, and of the interactions between various groups of people. The assignment is due the second Monday of school. Late projects will not be accepted.

It is imperative that students who are entering the AP World History course complete the reading assignments before the new school year begins. This will help ensure that each student gets off to a good start and has a successful experience in AP World History.

If you have questions or difficulty finding any of these materials, please feel free to contact the Social Studies Department Chair, Ms. Vessey, at [klord@harmonytx.org](mailto:klord@harmonytx.org).

We hope you all have a terrific summer and look forward to next year.

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter acknowledging that you have received and understood the above information regarding the required summer reading for Harmony Science Academy -Fort Worth's 2010/2011 AP World History course. If you have any questions, please email me at [wstevenson@harmonytx.org](mailto:wstevenson@harmonytx.org)

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_