

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Reading and writing in the 21st century classroom is an interdisciplinary effort. Students read and write in all disciplines, but they have particularly extended and frequent opportunities to do so in English, the sciences, and the social studies.

Summer reading at the high school level encompasses these three disciplines. Over the duration of each student's high school experience, he or she will select from summer reading lists that encourage reading for enjoyment and education, while addressing some of the "big questions" that surface in these three subject areas and in adult life.

The books selected for each grade represent a variety of interests and reading levels. Print copies are readily available locally or via online booksellers. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free) resource. If you need help in selecting books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. While audio books are not a replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. Audio books are available at the library on CD or on iTunes.

As you explore these opportunities and the "big question" for the summer, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! We hope you and your son or daughter find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. We look forward to working with you throughout your student's high school career.

Sincerely, %

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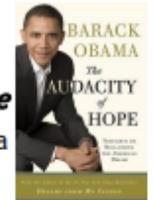


Partnership  
Respect & Responsibility  
Involvement  
**DIVERSITY**  
Educational Excellence

**The Big Question:**  
How should our past experiences shape our common future?



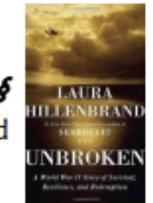
***The Things They Carried*** §  
by Tim O'Brien



***The Audacity of Hope***  
by Barack Obama



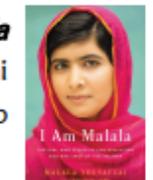
***Killing Kennedy***  
by Bill O'Reilly



***Unbroken*** §  
by Laura Hillenbrand



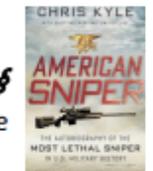
***MARCH***  
by John Lewis



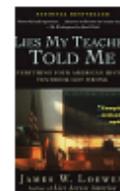
***I Am Malala***  
by Malala Yousafzai  
and Christina Lamb



***Murder in the High Himalayas*** §  
by Jonathan Green



***American Sniper*** §  
by Chris Kyle



***Lies My Teacher Told Me***  
by James W. Lowen



***Adventure Capitalist***  
by Jim Rogers

# Steps to a complete summer assignment for students entering grade 11\*:

## PART A. SUMMER READING

- Select one book from the ten choices on the flyer (more details available at [www.braintreeschools.org/summer](http://www.braintreeschools.org/summer)).
- Read it and complete the Note Taking Chart (below) for Grade 11 Big Question.

Diverse people, ideas, and experiences have shaped the American identity. How should these past experiences shape our common future?

Choose a book from the list for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. As you read, focus on moments and events that should affect our future decisions as people, as a community, and as a nation. Copy the chart below and complete it using the book you selected.

Events from the book: Choose moments or events that represent the time, place, or culture in the story.	Implications for the future: How do the moments/events you chose affect future actions?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Evaluate your examples and answer the question: How should these past experiences shape our common future?	

\* Only students enrolled in grade 11 AP US History and/or AP Government and Politics should complete the assigned summer work associated with the AP social studies course instead of this school-wide assignment.

## PART B. ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Select one annual address or message on the State of the Union to Congress between 1861 and 1880, which can be all found online at <https://bit.ly/2HCAT34>

- Read it and complete the tasks outlined below:
  1. Identify at least **three (3) major domestic policy priorities** the President outlined in his annual message to Congress. What were his rationale for these issues as a national priority? What was going on in the United States during this time?
  2. Identify at least **two (2) major foreign policy priorities** the President outlined in his annual message to Congress. What were his rationale for these issues as a national priority? What was going on in the world during this time?
  3. Research political opponents of the President and their opposing arguments to the President's vision as outlined in the annual message to Congress. **Generate a bulleted list of arguments as a counter response to the President's annual message to Congress and prepare a speech or Opinion-Editorial article in response to the President's annual message to Congress:**

	President's view and rationale	Political opponents' views and rationale
Identify three domestic policy priorities/initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Identify two foreign policy priorities/initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

- Turn in your written work to your US History teacher in the fall.
- Participate in the summer reading class activity in your US History class.
- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading (Part A) will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent portal.
- Note: State of the Union portion of the assignment (Part B) will reflect as an assessment towards your Term 1 grade.

**PART A. SUMMER READING**

To type this in Google Doc, please go to <https://bit.ly/2WTNUuE>

Name:

Book Title:

<b>Events from the book: Choose moments or events that represent the time, place, or culture in the story.</b>	<b>Implications for the future: How do the moments/events you chose affect future actions?</b>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Evaluate your examples and answer the question: How should these past experiences shape our common future?	

**PART B. ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON THE STATE OF THE UNION**

To type this in Google Doc, please go to <https://bit.ly/2LXha2G>

Name:

President:

Date of Message:

<b>Identify the domestic or foreign policy</b>	<b>President's view and rationale</b> <i>(you should cite directly from the message)</i>	<b>Context: what was going on in the United States or the world during this time?</b>	<b>Political opponent's views and rationale</b>
Domestic Policy #1			
Domestic Policy #2			
Domestic Policy #3:			
Foreign Policy #1:			
Foreign Policy #2:			