

Steamboat Springs High School

Summer Reading Assignment **American Studies Class 2009-2010.**

Welcome to American Studies! You will find this class is filled with new ideas, decision making techniques, analyses, and recurring themes related to our American history and American literature. In order to get you started on our journey together, as well as to reinforce the philosophy that learning is a continuous process (and not just something that happens during the school year), we ask you to complete the following assignment this summer, and **bring it to class on the first day of school.**

For our summer reading, students are **required to choose a biography or autobiography on an American figure, by an American author.** Here are the guidelines that you should use in selecting your book:

- 1) The chosen person must have had an impact on the shaping of American history and/or culture.
- 2) The chosen person must have been born before 1970.
- 3) The chosen book must be appropriate for your reading level—choose a book that is not too hard and not too easy for your reading skill level.
- 4) The chosen book must be academic enough to fulfill writing assignments, discussions, presentations, and/or tests. One of the essential questions we will be discussing is, “What is an American?” As you read the book this summer, think about qualities this person has that are shared by others in our country.

As you read, you will keep a journal of your thoughts and what you learn about the person and the American society and era he/she lived in. When you return to school in August, you will use this journal to help you to write a paper, to discuss your studied person and his/her contributions to our American culture, to make posters or projects, and/or to take a test. Complete directions for keeping your journal are on the back of this paper.

You might think about Americans who have contributed to our history and lives in one of these ways:

History makers	Humanitarians	Explorers	Business Leaders
Heros	Entertainers	Scientists	Mathematicians
Athletes			

If you are remain unsure of what American figure you would like to read about this summer, the youth services librarian and the reference librarians at Bud Werner Memorial Library will be glad to help you make a choice. The people at Off the Beaten Path and Epilogue Book Co. will also help you select a book and give you 10% off if you mention that your book is for this assignment.

See you in August. Have a safe and happy summer, and happy reading!

The American Studies Team –

Mr. Ameen, Mrs. Boyd, Ms. Gabriel, Mrs. Glueck, Mr. Gravelle, Mr. Spyker, Mr. Stahl and Ms. Wiggins.

Summer Reading Journal

You will be keeping an **interactive notebook** on the summer reading you choose. This notebook will act as a portfolio on your individual learning. You should be actively reading and interacting with your choice book through this process. You will need a notebook (an inexpensive composition notebook or a spiral notebook is fine), which you may continue to use as a journal in your English class.

Your teachers will be looking for a **minimum of 10 pages filled out in your notebook**

Organize your notebook using this method.

- Open up the notebook so you have a left page and a right hand page.
- Make sure you record the date, title of your choice book, and page numbers you read for each day of entry. **A rule of thumb might be for every 20 pages you read, enter a left hand and right hand page of responses.**
- On the right hand side of the notebook, you may take notes, summarize the section of reading, record quotes.
- On the left hand side of the notebook, you may be more creative: express opinions and feelings, discuss symbolism, who are your favorite characters and why, what you would do in that situation, drawings of the setting or characters, personal reflections.

<p>The left hand side of the notebook is for creative responses and your individual reactions.</p>	<p>The right side of the notebook is for notes straight from the text.</p>
---	---

Options for the left-hand page	Options for the right-hand page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ideas that come to you • Personal reflections and thoughts • Write a poem • Cartoons that relate to the book • “What if” hypothetical situations • Questions you have about the character, the society, the time period... • Personal connections • Connections to other texts (books, movies, stories) • Reactions to the characters and situations in the book • Symbolism you notice • What you would do if you were in that situation or if you were that person • Drawings of the characters and setting • Any creative connection to the book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading notes you want to remember • Summary of the section you just finished reading • Facts • Quotes from the book that you want to reflect on or you feel are significant • Important events in the book • Timeline of events in person’s life or historical references • Lists and descriptions of characters

Bring your journal and your biography book to class on the first day of school.