

Name: _____ Date: _____
AP World History Mr. Benschine

Summer Reading 2016 Assignment

Welcome to Advanced Placement World History. This year's summer assignment will be due on the fourth day of school (Thursday, August 11, 2016) and will count as a major grade. Please do not leave this assignment until the end of the summer to complete. Though the book is quite enjoyable, it may take some time to read.

This year's summer assignment will center on the book *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit* by Daniel Quinn. You will need to obtain a copy of this book either by purchasing it or checking it out from your local library. The book is available from most local bookstores or from on-line retailers.

This assignment must be typed. No exceptions.

1. After you have completed reading the book, you are to write a 500 to 750 word (1-2 pages, typed and double-spaced) book review of Ishmael. [50%] Divide the review into three parts:
 - A. The first third of the review should be a description of what you feel was the author's intent in writing the book. If you read a book entitled The Crusades, don't assume that the author's purpose was to tell the reader about the Crusades or to describe the Crusades. His purpose may be to persuade you that the Crusades were important because they altered commerce or his purpose may be to persuade the reader that the Crusades were a crucial step on the road to Turkish expansion. One way or the other, the author has an agenda. Spend this third of the review describing what you discovered about this. What is the main focus of the book? What are the author's primary arguments? What aspects of history does the author focus on?
 - B. The second third of your review should describe how Quinn went about his task. What kind of evidence did he rely on? What were his sources – or does he even let you know? Does he use intelligent graphics – pictures, tables, graph, etc.? Do they help clarify and add to the text, or are they padding or just confusing, or poorly introduced? Provide specifics. Does he write well? Is he entertained by this subject, or is he just grinding out a book? What credentials does Quinn possess? Do these credentials legitimize his work?
 - C. The last third of your review is critical. It is here that you evaluate and analyze his success. Did he persuade you with any of his arguments? Which ones? Did he really bore you, or anger you, or confuse you? Why or why not? Was it indeed a book that needed to be written, or was it a waste of your time and his? What would you advise other readers of the book? Read it? Check it out but be cautious? Forget about it?
2. Be prepared to take a multiple-choice assessment on the book during the first week of school. This will focus on both the larger themes of the text as well as important details. It is advised that you take notes or annotate the text while reading to aid with your studying for this assessment. [50%]

If you have questions you may email Mr. Benschine (benschinef@fultonschools.org) or Mr. Day (dayet@fultonschools.org)