

7th Grade Humanities
The San Francisco School
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Araceli Quezada

Dear Class of 2021,

I have heard many great things about this class and I am excited to be your teacher. Next year, we will study the Middle Ages, systems of power, literature, poetry, the writing process, and world geography. I am especially excited to explore world cultures as they emerged in medieval times and continue to develop today. It's going to be a fantastic year of exploration and learning!

Your summer reading assignment is to read three books: #1 and #2 are **provided** and the third book is an independent reading book of your choice.

1. ***Between Shades of Gray*** by Ruta Sepetys
2. ***When the Emperor was Divine*** by Julie Otsuka
3. ***Your choice***. Possible genres to choose from are fantasy, dystopian, mystery, biography, or science fiction. It is your choice but it should be a novel.

Please read the novels and complete the following activities. Your responses are due on the first day of school. This is your first graded assignment of 7th grade so please do not leave it to the last minute. Your writing can be handwritten or typed. Please make sure that it is legible. *Late work will receive a late penalty for each day it is late.*

Plan out how much you need to read each day or each week. Jot down brief notes immediately after completing each chapter. Your notes can be 3 - 5 bullet points or sentences. Things to look for are: clues about the characters, important events, conflicts, impactful moments, and any questions you have about the story or the characters.

Be thoughtful and detailed in your reflection and your letter to me. If you have any questions as you complete your reading and reflections, please email me at aquezada@sfschool.org. I will be happy to respond when possible.

Be prepared to return to class in the fall ready to discuss your required reading and these questions in particular.

I have provided the required reading. You are responsible for these books and will need to replace them if you lose them. You will need to find your third book. Go to your local library or bookstore. Bring them with you on the first day of school as we will be using them from day one, for comprehension, discussion, and writing activities.

Have a great summer and may you find many moments to play, relax, and enjoy!

All my best,
Araceli

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: DIRECTIONS (can be handwritten or typed)

1. Read each novel. As you read, stop at the end of each **chapter** and **jot down brief notes (3-5 bullet points or sentences)**. Note clues about the characters, important events, conflicts, impactful moments and any questions you might have about the plot.
2. Reflect on both required books: Think about what *Between Shades of Gray* and *When the Emperor was Divine* were about and how they affected you. You can also compare them. How were they similar or different? What were your favorite moments in both books? (one or two paragraphs- reflection; **5-7 sentences per paragraph.)

1. ***Between Shades of Gray*** is historical fiction based on true experiences in Lithuania in 1941. We often only hear about what was going on in Germany at this time, so this novel is a different voice that helps us to further understand what people live through during times of war.
 2. ***When the Emperor was Divine*** is also historical fiction about a young girl and her family who are taken from their homes and sent to internment camps. It is another perspective about what happened in America during World War II, and it is from the perspective of a young girl.
 3. **Free Choice**: If there is a particular book that you are eager to read, here is your chance to include it as your 3rd summer reading selection. Keep in mind it must be a novel or graphic novel (no comics) and it should fall in one of the following genres: fantasy, biography, dystopian, or science fiction. Make sure to document your independent choice (author, title, publisher, publishing date). This should be noted after your reflection.
3. **Write a letter addressed to me** in which you tell me about one of your all-time favorite books. What happens in this story? Who are the characters? What is the setting? Why do you like it so much? Give me three reasons why I should read it too!

Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

<i>Between Shades of Gray</i> chapter notes	25
<i>When the Emperor was Divine</i> chapter notes	25
Required Reading Reflections (one to two paragraphs)	30
Letter Addressed to Araceli	20

Total Points

100