

To develop a worthwhile understanding of United States history, we must consider the varied perspectives of the many individuals and events that have made our country great and our history rich. Your task this summer is to begin to consider American history from different perspectives. Please select and read one of the following books.

Berkin, Carol. *Civil War Wives*.
Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.
Foner, Eric. *The Story of American Freedom*.
Handlin, Oscar and Lilian. *Abraham Lincoln and the Union*.
Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Invention of Wings: A Novel*. (Historical novel about the Grimké sisters)
Paulsen, Michael Stokes. *The Constitution: An Introduction*.
Reed, Lawrence W. & Folsom Jr., Burton W. *A Republic – If We Can Keep It*.
Reynolds, David. *America, Empire of Liberty*.
Roberts, Cokie. *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*.
Roberts, Cokie. *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*.
Robson, Nancy Taylor. *A Love Like No Other: Abigail & John Adams, A Modern Love Story*.
(Historical novel about the Adams's lives together and apart)
Shaara, Jeff. *Rise to Rebellion*. (Historical novel about the American Revolution)
Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*. (Historical novel about the Civil War battle of Gettysburg)
Taranto, J. & Leo, L. *Presidential Leadership: Rating the Best and Worst in the White House*.
X, Malcolm. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.
Williams, Juan. *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*.
Wood, Gordon S. *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Great*.

If possible, plan on purchasing the book so you may annotate it as you read. Each book is available at bookstores and online at amazon.com, bn.com, etc. I would be happy to discuss with you my views of the strengths and weaknesses of each book before you select one. Be prepared to participate in discussion circles when we return to school in September. **Additionally, thoroughly answer the questions below in a detailed writing that should cumulatively be 3-5 PAGES LONG (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, etc). Questions 1-3 and 6 should elicit detailed responses on your part:**

1. What is the author's overarching thesis? OR Who are the protagonists and why are their stories important and/or interesting? Expand on their experiences here and discuss your thoughts on how they may have impacted the course of American history.
2. Does the author provide contrary perspectives? Does the author explain why antagonistic positions are weak and/or incorrect and/or valid?
3. Discuss the author's use of historical evidence. Does it appear objective? Biased?
4. Write five thoughtful questions you would ask the author concerning the book.
5. Write one thoughtful question you would like to ask five people mentioned in the book. Why this question? Why these people?
6. What other observations/insights struck you as interesting?

Have a wonderful summer – and turn on your brains!