

AP WORLD HISTORY Summer reading assignments (there are a total of 2 books to read!)

Bayshore Christian School – Mrs. Conley
2026-2027 school year

Journal and responses for assignments #1 and #2 will be due the first FRIDAY after start of school (August 14, 2026). Students who enroll in AP WORLD HISTORY later than July 30 will need to contact me for alternate due dates.

#1: Choose ONE book from the following list to read in its entirety

The Kitchen Boy: A Novel of the Last Tsar by Robert Alexander (RUSSIAN REVOLUTION; A story of the last Tsar of Russia, as seen through the eyes of a kitchen boy.)

The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan (CHINA in the early 20th century – Bones of Peking Man or Dragon Bones? Generations of women, and secrets brought from China)

King Leopold's Ghost by Adam Hochschild (CONGO, AFRICA as the personal fief of the King of Belgium)

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Payton (SOUTH AFRICA; Impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law – deeply moving story of a Zulu pastor & his son and racial injustice in Southern Africa.)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (MIDDLE-EAST MODERN; The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction)

While reading, complete a reading journal for each chapter. You can use a spiral notebook, composition book or notebook paper stapled together and in a folder. Entries should be HANDWRITTEN and include the following (number each response as indicated below):

1. Name of the chapter or number (both *The Janissary Tree* and *Cry the Beloved Country* have very short chapters – you can combine up to 5 chapters for your responses).
2. At least 1-paragraph summary
3. Personal feelings about the chapter content – likes and dislikes, agreements and questions (include words or things you didn't know or had to look up)
4. Discuss the historical significance or connections of (in) the chapter. What happened that changed the course of the story or narrative? What broader historical meaning can you assign to the chapter – if any? What connections can you make to broader historic issues or events? What cultural connections/implications can you make or see in this chapter?

#2: Read the book *A History of the World in 6 Glasses* by Tom Standage (this book walks through the history of world using 6 beverages as a guide – it is a favorite book among many World History scholars)

HANDWRITE the following (see above assignment for acceptable journal types):

READING QUESTIONS: As you read, answer the following reading questions for each topic. Your answers need to be thorough, but not lengthy—3-4 sentences. Cite the page numbers in which you found the answers. Answer in complete sentences.

The text is organized in six sections that each considers a beverage and the time period during which that beverage was significant. Historians identify time periods in many different ways and they often disagree about the best way to identify a time period. Use the text to determine the time periods covered by each section of the text. (You may use specific dates or important events to identify the time period.)

Use the following examples as models:

A. WWII began in 1939 and ended in 1945. B. WWII began with Germany's invasion of Poland and ended with Japan's surrender to the United States.

Examples A and B date the same time period, but example A uses years while example B uses events to identify the time period that we commonly call WWII.

BEER: 1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first civilizations?
2. What is the connection between the discovery of beer and the Neolithic Revolution (beginnings of agriculture)?
3. How did Mesopotamian geography shape its peoples view of the gods?
4. How did beer civilize man, according to Standage?
5. How did the Egyptian attitude toward beer differ from that of Mesopotamia?
6. Who built the ancient pyramids of Egypt and how were they paid? What benefit did the pyramids and their construction bring to Egyptian society?

WINE: 1. How did the development of large states and empires promote wine as a drink of choice?
2. What role did Greek geography play in its economic development and trade?
3. How was wine used by Greeks and how did it develop into a symbol of status?
4. What was Plato's view of democracy? How did Plato's symposium differ from others?
5. How was wine important in the transmission of Greek culture throughout the Mediterranean and Asia.
6. Compare the Roman convivium to the Greek symposium.
7. Compare the acceptance of wine in Christianity to the Islamic view of spirits?

SPIRITS: 1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. Explain the connection between spirits, slaves, and sugar.
3. Why did spirits become an important staple in colonial America?

4. What role did rum play in the American Revolution?
5. Why did whiskey supplant rum in the western colonial regions of America?
6. What were the causes and effects of the Whiskey Rebellion?

- COFFEE:**
1. How did Arabs come to dominate the coffee industry?
 2. Why did coffee come to be preferred over alcoholic beverages?
 3. Why was it important to Europe's development that many Europeans chose coffee over alcohol as their favored beverage of consumption?
 4. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the scientific revolution?
 5. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the financial revolution?
 6. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and the French Revolution?

- TEA:**
1. How did tea transform Chinese society?
 2. What were China's major exports during the Tang dynasty?
 3. What two factors made tea a popular drink in England?
 4. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
 5. What was the connection between tea and politics?
 6. What role did the British East India Company play in world history?
 7. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium war of 1839-1842?