



**Peak to Peak
Charter School**
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May 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of incoming AP European History Students:

All AP European History students will read William Manchester's A World Lit Only By Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance this summer. The AP European History course focuses on modern history beginning with the Renaissance. It is paramount that students understand the difference in worldview that divides the middle ages from the early modern era, and the Manchester text provides an excellent and engaging overview of this period and clearly contrasts it with the emerging Renaissance.

For the summer reading assignment, students need to complete a summer reading assignment that is based on the essential questions for the first unit of the course. These questions will also serve as a basis for class discussion. Students need to bring the completed assignment in the correct format with them the first day of class. **It will be the first assignment in the gradebook for the school year and is due the first day of class.** The assignment can easily be downloaded from www.peaktopeak.org, our school's webpage. For your convenience, Peak to Peak and Barnes and Noble will be holding a May book fair where families may purchase all the books needed for the upcoming school year.

Please sign this form below and return it to this year's classroom teacher. This will indicate that you and your child understand the summer-reading expectations. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Have a great summer and thanks for reading!

Sincerely,
Catherine Schyling
AP European History Instructor

I have read and understood the summer reading responsibilities for incoming World History students for the 2008-2009 school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

AP European History
Summer Reading Assignment
2008-2009

Text: A World Lit Only By Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age by William Manchester. This book is readily available used and in paperback for ten to twelve dollars. It is also available at public libraries.

Purpose: The purpose of the summer reading assignment is to expand your knowledge and understanding of pre-Renaissance Europe. Since AP European history begins with the Renaissance, it is essential that you understand something about the period preceding the Renaissance so that you appreciate the great change this era represents in Europe. Reading the Manchester text will help you gain perspective into the late Middle Ages. Your essential questions for this book are: "In what way is the modern mindset and world different from the medieval mindset and world?" and "What events, persons, ideas caused the transformation of Europe?"

Format: typed, double-spaced, 1" margins, P2P header, 1-2 pages for **each** of the following three assignments. Do not respond to each question separately as if they were short answer questions. Develop an essay with a clear thesis and integrate your answers to each question in the essay.

Due Date: First day of class

Grading: worth 20 points each (60 total); each essay will be graded based on Ideas/Content (10points), Organization (5points) and Format (5 points).

"The Medieval Mind" (pp. 3 - 28)

Respond to the following in essay format with an identifiable thesis:

What aspects of medieval man or the medieval mindset does Manchester find different from that of modern man? Using a direct quote for each from the text (with page references), explain and evaluate at least two of Manchester's observations.

"The Shattering" (pp. 31 - 219)

Select **two topics** mentioned in this section, which represent a shattering of accepted ideas or beliefs of the time. Using direct quotes for each from the text (with page references), respond to the following questions in essay format with an identifiable thesis:

What was the traditional idea or belief about the topic?

What ideas or events 'shattered' the accepted notions?

What impact did the "shattering" have on Europe?

"One Man Alone" (pp. 223-296)

After reading this section and the earlier sections on the Reformation, respond to the following in essay format with an identifiable thesis:

Which individual from this era had the greatest impact on history: Martin Luther or Magellan? Defend your choice with specific examples.

*adapted from an assignment by Scott Corner