

June 2022

Dear Class of 2023,

I am excited to be your 8th Humanities teacher! Next school year, we will immerse ourselves in American history, culture, and literature. In the meantime, enjoy the summer by taking care of yourself, spending time with family and friends, and of course, a bit of reading and writing. **If you lose the Zinn handout, please purchase the Zinn text or make a copy from a classmate. There will not be digital copies available during the summer from me or the school.**

Please complete the following assignments (due on the first day of school):

Read and underline key points in the reading (handout provided), *A Young People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn. 2) Answer the following questions with a thoughtful (3-5 sentence) response. You may hand-write or type your responses.

1. Whose perspective(s) are present in Zinn's text?
2. What purpose does Zinn believe the telling of history serves?
3. Does reading this excerpt from Zinn change your understanding of the story of Christopher Columbus and the "founding" of America?
4. What does a "people's history" mean?

In addition to the Zinn reading and prompts, please read John Steinbeck's, *The Pearl*, and use the following guide for annotation:

1. Circle/highlight at least one word in each chapter that needs to be defined. Use context clues to define them in the margin of the book.
2. Underline at least two lines/phrases of writing that is striking in imagery for each chapter. Identify what device(s) is being used in the margin of the book. Pay close attention to the motifs of "songs" and the everchanging "pearl".

John Steinbeck's, *The Pearl*, may be purchased from most bookstores. You are required to have your own hard copy (any edition) of the novel.

I look forward to seeing you all after a well-deserved break!

Best,

Michelle Yi Martin