

**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES HISTORY II HONORS
SUMMER READING**

Required Reading: Hiroshima- John Hersey

The goal of the summer reading program is to provide students with a broad reading experience to serve as a foundation to better understand the themes and time periods that will be covered during the course of study. Students will also be better able to analyze information, interpret historical sources, and write clear and concise essays on historical topics, all required skills for success in the classroom.

Hiroshima, written by John Hersey in 1946, gives the reader insight into the effect of the atomic bomb on the population of Hiroshima. Through first hand accounts of the days after the Hiroshima blast, the reader gets primary source evidence of the uniquely destructive nature of the atomic bomb. This knowledge helps refine the debate over nuclear proliferation today.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Students are asked to read the book over the summer and to assess its content and meaning in a rich writing assignment when they return to school. This will be done during the first full week of school in September. Students will be allowed to reference only handwritten notes at the time of the assessment.

Guidelines:

While reading, students should pay particular attention to the following:

- the moral and ethical implications of using the bomb
- the effect of the bomb on non-combatants
- the long term health effects of radioactive poisoning