

“History is the story of mankind, a historical novel can last forever.” – James D. Best

U.S. History Honors Summer Assignment

In the 2017-2018 school year, you will be studying the history of your country, the United States of America. Hopefully, this reading assignment will give you an insight into specific historical events that helped form our nation. When you return for the 2017-2018 school year, please have the following assignment completed and ready to be graded.

The novel choices are:

- *The Shut Mouth Society* by James D. Best
“When a rich Santa Barbara collector acquires a newly discovered Abraham Lincoln document, he asks detective Greg Evarts and UCLA professor Patricia Baldwin to authenticate it. Their research launches them into a dangerous struggle with a secret society formed during Reconstruction. Before they can solve the mystery surrounding the Lincoln manuscript, a shocking murder forces them to run for their lives. As they race across the country, they discover a Civil War secret that could upset the balance of power in North America. Now Evarts and Baldwin must unravel the 150-year-old conspiracy before it’s too late ... and before they are silenced for good.”
- *Tempest at Dawn* by James D. Best
“The United States is on the brink of total collapse. The military has been reduced to near extinction, economic turmoil saps hope, and anarchy threatens, as world powers hover like vultures, eager to devour the remains. In a desperate move, a few powerful men call a secret meeting to plot the overthrow of the government.
Fifty-five men came to Philadelphia May of 1787 with a congressional charter to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead they founded the longest lasting republic in world history. *Tempest at Dawn* tells their story.”

Initial steps in completing this assignment:

1. Choose one of the novels described above. Check your local bookstore or an online source such as Amazon.com. It is also available electronically, at a lower price, for Kindle devices, for example.
2. Complete the reading and begin the assignment.
3. Review the assignment sheet and be sure to complete the entire assignment.
4. It is suggested that the assignment be typed. However, if it is handwritten, be sure that it is legible and neat.

Assignment details and format:

- Title page: title of novel, author, and your name
- Write a well-developed paragraph, may be more than one, for **each** of the basic components of the novel
 - Setting – details of place and time
 - Plot – the story
 - Main characters
 - Theme – author’s message; the main idea of the novel
- Answer the following and be sure to answer in complete sentences.
 - Name and explain at least three historical facts that you learned from the story.
 - What was the author’s purpose or purposes in writing this book?
 - What did the title have to do with the story?
 - Was the title a good choice? Why or why not?
 - What lesson(s) did you learn from this novel?
 - What, in your opinion, was the most interesting part of the book? Why?

Bonus credit opportunity:

Choose a character that you found interesting from the novel. Think of what his/her likes/dislikes would be. Then think of a gift that you would give to this character on their birthday that would cause him/her to say that this was the best gift they had ever received. Design a greeting card that would accompany the gift. Identify what the gift is in the card and include why you chose that gift.