

AP Biology 605

Summer Reading Assignment

There is nothing so pleasant as curling up somewhere comfy and reading a good book. There are many readable tomes with themes or information that relates in one way or another to the biological sciences.

Read any of the books listed on the websites below, or choose a different one and have either Ms. Purdy, Mr. Snow, or Ms. Dannenberg approve it as appropriate for this project. *DO NOT* choose a book you have already read. You should select a book *specifically* for this assignment. We have provided brief annotations to the bibliography to help you make your choice.

You will keep a reading journal in which you your thoughts, reactions, ideas, and discoveries made as you read. Journal entries should correspond to approximately one per chapter. *Before you begin reading*, record in your journal answers to the following questions:

- 1) Why did you choose this book?
- 2) Do you have any prior knowledge of the subject matter? If so, what is it, and how did you acquire it?
- 3) What are your expectations in reading this book, either for knowledge acquisition or other areas of interest? To what questions do you hope to find answers?

After you finish the book, give yourself a few days to let it all sink in. Then, using your journal to jog your memory, write a 3-5-page paper addressing your thoughts about the book. Note that this is *not* a book report, but a reflective analysis of something about the book that you found memorable. The following questions should serve as inspiration as you frame your paper:

- 1) Did the book meet your expectations?
- 2) Were your questions answered? What did you learn?
- 3) What questions remain, and/or what new questions arose as a result of your reading this book?
- 4) What did you like best about the book (this can be content, the author's attitudes, the style of writing – anything!)
- 5) What "big picture" ideas did the book make you think about?
- 6) Is the author making an argument? If so, on what points are you persuaded? On what points are you not persuaded?

Both the journal and the paper must be handed in for credit.

Your completed assignment is due on the first full day of classes, in September 2011.

NOTE: If you wish to request an extension because your summer plans preclude your being able to complete this assignment by the due date, you must petition for the extension *IN WRITING* by June 7, 2010. E-mail a brief note explaining your circumstances to Ms. Purdy, Mr. Snow, or Ms. Dannenberg. You will receive an answer by e-mail by before the end of school year.

Ms. Purdy (Jo-Anne_Purdy@newton.k12.ma.us)

Mr. Snow (Zachary_Snow@newton.k12.ma.us)

Ms. Dannenberg (Ann_Dannenberg@newton.k12.ma.us)

Find the annotated book list under *AP Summer Reading* at:

www2.newton.k12.ma.us/~zachary_snow

<http://purdyplatypus.pbworks.com> (under AP Biology on the front page)

<http://www.anndannenberg.com/>