



June 10, 2011

Dear Ninth Grade Humanities Students,

In order to prepare for our journey in history and literature, we've assigned you a few really great reads for the summer:

*The Alchemist*

*Old Man and The Sea*

*Pompeii*

Paulo Coelho

Ernest Hemingway

Robert Harris (2003 edition from Random House)

As you read, begin to get in the habit of annotating the texts. In your annotation, try to use underlining, circling, boxing, or use other creative systems (such as colored bookmarks) to identify theme, character, and/or plot. While reading them, think about other books you've read that remind you of these, whether it is through similar plot, theme, character, genre, etc. At various times during class we will bring up these texts, so make sure to bring a copy of each to class in our first week. Also be prepared for a short assessment on the reading within the first few weeks of school.

Enjoy the summer!

Ms. Gayton and Mr. Merrill