

Montgomery Blair High School

Communication Arts Program Summer Reading Project

History: Read one of the books below.

Read *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* by David Von Drehle **OR** *Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* by Cameron McWhirter **OR** *Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber* by Stephen Yafa and answer the questions associated with the book you choose to read in complete sentences. The summer reading assignment is due the first day of class and should be typed and double-spaced. It is critical that passages from the book you choose are properly cited as described below.

Choice #1- Triangle: The Fire that Changed America:

A) The first 4 chapters of the book describe life in New York City during the Gilded Age (1890-1914). Using information from these chapters, write answers for each of the following prompts. Each answer will require a developed paragraph. For each answer you will need to have two (2) quotes from the book which support your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).

1. What role did Tammany Hall play in New York politics and society during this period?
2. What role did women play in New York in organizing unions and promoting female suffrage?
3. Briefly describe the garment industry in New York.
4. Analyze the "Uprising" in terms of whether it succeeded or failed and explain why.
5. Describe one significant aspect of the life of Eastern European immigrants during this time period.

B) Chapters 5,6 &7 describe the actual fire and its immediate aftermath based on the recollections of survivors. Based on these, create your own account of the fire from the perspective of one of the first firemen to arrive on the scene. It should be written as a diary entry and be no more than one page and no shorter than a half page in length.

C) Chapters 8 & 9 detail the consequences of the fire. For each of the questions below write a developed paragraph (6-8 sentences with a topic sentence).

- 6) Describe the major reforms that resulted from the fire.
- 7) Why did this event have such a profound effect, when similar events before the Triangle Fire had little or no effect?
- 8) What were the results of the "Trial"? Why does the author think the "Trial" ended that way? What do you think about the results?

Choice #2- Red Summer:

***The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* Reading Questions**

For questions 1-10 you will need to have one quote from the book which support your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).

Chapters 2 and 3 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences each)]

1. How were the attitudes of African Americans transformed by WWI and the Great Migration?
2. What other events outside of the United States led to many to conclude that the world was on fire? Name at least 2 and explain how they affected American attitudes.

Chapters 4 &5 (Answer these questions with short 1-2 sentence responses)

3. Who founded the NAACP? In what ways was it different from other African American advocacy groups?
4. What impact did the National Conference of Lynching have on the NAACP? Explain in a brief paragraph.

Chapters 6- 11 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences- each should begin with a well-developed topic sentence that clearly takes a position in response to the question)]

5. Compare how local government officials and military leaders responded to riots in Charleston, SC with those in Ellisville, Mississippi, Jacksonville, Florida and Washington D.C.
6. According to Harry A Bellows, author of "Treatise of Riot Duty for the National Guard" what was the key to controlling riots?
7. How did Carlo Valdinoci impact J. Edgar Hoover and Alexander Mitchell Palmer's political agenda? How did the change in each government official's political views impact race relations?
8. What do books like *The Klansman* and *The Decline of the West* tell us about white attitudes towards race and the new immigrants of the early 20th century? Explain.
9. How did black attitudes towards whites change in 1919 as a result of the mob violence, the Great Migration and WWI? Read Claude McKay's "If We Must Die" and analyze poem in response to the question.
10. Describe President Wilson's attitudes towards African Americans. What policies did he implement that help the reader better understand his attitude.

Chapters 12-14:

11. Imagine you are the mayor of Chicago. Write a journal entry describing race relations in Chicago, who or what is to blame for the race riots and how you intend to prevent future race riots. (2-3 paragraphs)

Chapter 15-18: (1 well developed paragraph)

12. How did the NAACP come to be the principle organization to advocate on behalf of black civil rights?

Chapter 19-The End: (1 well developed paragraph)

13. Speculate why the race riots of the 1919 receive scant mention in most US History books.

Choice #3- Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber by Stephen Yafa

For questions 1-9 you will need to have one quote from the book which supports your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).

Chapters 1-4:

1. How did cotton end up in the New World? From where does the plant species originate?
2. Who was Richard Arkwright? How did he alter the history of clothing and style? What percentage of clothing was made out of cotton in Europe and North America in 1793? 1893?
3. Who was Eli Whitney? How did his invention alter both the southern United States and the textile mills of northern England and New England?

Chapters 5-8

4. In what ways did Francis Cabot Lowell's textile mill differ from those in Manchester?
5. In what ways did the textile mills of New England provide a level of independence the women of New England had never experienced before? Describe the life of an average textile mill worker.
6. What did Alexander Hamilton mean when he said that "the ideas a contrariety of interests between Northern and Southern regions of the Union, are in the Main as unfounded as they are mischievous...Mutual wants constitute one of the strongest links of political connection...?"
7. What divided pro-labor activists like the Female Labor Reform Association and abolitionist organizations like Lowell Female Anti-Slavery Society?
8. On page 149 a subsection of the book is entitled "Enslaved by Cotton." Explain its meaning.
9. Southern secessionists thought that the British would not turn against their cause. Why were they wrong?

Diary Entry:

10. Pretend you are either 14-year-old working in a southern textile mill or with your family as cotton share croppers. Write a 3-4 paragraph diary entry explaining your day to day life. What are your hopes, dreams and fears?

Chapter 9- 12: Answer the following questions in the form of a short constructed response between 5-7 sentences.

11. In what ways did access to cheap cotton impact fashion in the US? What factors led to the invention and popularity of jeans?
12. Describe the connection between cotton, the boll weevil, the Great Migration and the Blues?
13. Explain how chemicals altered the production of cotton.
14. How has international competition affected American cotton growers? What are the economic impacts of that competition on the communities that grow or manufacture clothes in the US?