

**Summer Reading Assignment
for World History II (10th Grade) Mrs. Buckley
June 2010**

Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks (note: There really was nothing wonderful about the Black Death.)

Wikipedia definition: Historical fiction is a sub-genre of fiction that often portrays fictional accounts or dramatization of historical figures or events. Writers of stories in this genre, while penning fiction, nominally attempt to capture the spirit, manners, and social conditions of the persons or time(s) presented in the story, with due attention paid to period detail and fidelity.

There is no better way to learn about history than to read historical fiction. A dry, boring textbook will certainly give you information, but a historical novel will give you the sights, sounds, smells, people, and passions of the time. Think of this novel as your summer beach read which will transport you back to England in the year 1665. I want you to think about the social, political, economic, and religious systems in the story. As you read, please jot down reading notes in the margin to help you keep track of the concepts that you are reading about. Look for specific examples in the reading to that support each of these systems. Also examine the main character, Anna, and look for examples of how she deals with the changes that the plague brings to her village and her daily life.

When you return to school in September, you will have a test on the novel on the second day of class. This assessment will mostly be short answer, true false, and multiple choice questions on the novel. It should not be too difficult if you have read the novel **carefully** and taken notes along the way. I recommend that you read the book later in the summer so that the story will still be fresh in your minds when you return to school.

Please feel free to e-mail me over the summer with any questions that you may have. gbuckley@bancroftschool.org. I am in and out during the summer, but if you e-mail me I promise to get back to you at my earliest convenience.

Have a great summer. Happy Black Death!

Mrs. B.