

**Summer Reading Assignment  
for United States History since 1945 (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Mrs. Buckley June 2010**

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir by Bill Bryson

1950's America was a time of peace and prosperity. The United States was the most powerful and productive country in the world, and there were tremendous changes taking place socially, politically, and economically. Bill Bryson's book is a great look at America at this time through a young boy's eyes. As you read, please think about some of these changes and jot down reading notes in the margin to help you keep track of the concepts that you are reading about. Also feel free to laugh out loud as some of Mr. Bryson's experiences are pretty amusing. If you can get the book on CD from your local library, the author reads it. It is very funny to actually listen to Mr. Bryson tell his story, and I recommend you listen to it if you can.

When you return to school in September, you will have a test on the second day of class. This assessment will be mostly short answer and short essay responses questions on the book. It should not be too difficult if you have read carefully and taken notes along the way.

Please feel free to e-mail me over the summer with any questions that you may have. [gbuckley@bancroftschool.org](mailto: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.

Mrs. B.