

World Literature 9  
Ancient World History 9  
Biology  
Summer Assignment  
July 2021

All that you touch  
You Change.

All that you Change  
Changes you.

The only lasting truth  
Is Change.

—Octavia Butler

Whether you're considering the shifts in pandemic restrictions, the flow of seasons, or your move from middle school to upper school, these poetic lines from Octavia Butler's novel *The Parable of the Sower* capture a common truth. The ancient Greeks knew that everything changes, modern history and scientific inquiry aim to understand the way cultures, knowledge, and human lives change, and every story you read ends in a different place than it began—as do you, the reader.

One way we'll look at the fields of history, English, and biology next year is through this idea of change. This summer, we'd like you to keep this concept in mind in everything you read, think about, and encounter.

- For English class, choose a few books from the English department reading list and think about how the characters change, how characters shape events and each other, and how you might be changed by reading about those characters and events.
- For Ancient World History, please select one or two podcasts or documentaries from the following YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT6Y5JJPK\\_e\\_JDMivpKgVXew](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT6Y5JJPK_e_JDMivpKgVXew) (titled *Fall of Civilizations* channel). As you learn about the rise and fall of these civilizations,

consider the changes that occurred within the civilization (economic/political/environmental/sociocultural) that led to its success and decline. The impact of change on ancient civilizations will be a central focus of our studies next year.

- For Biology, view one of the following videos. You may also wish to read one of the related books. As you watch or read (or do both), think about factors that cause ecosystems and organisms to change over long periods of time.
  - [Fossils, Genes, and the History of Life \(lecture\)](#)  
Based on: *Some Assembly Required: Decoding Four Billion Years of Life From Ancient Fossils to DNA*, by Neil Shubin
  - [Your Inner Fish \(PBS\)](#)  
Based on: *Your Inner Fish*, by Neil Shubin.
  - [The Serengeti Rules \(PBS\)](#)  
Based on: *The Serengeti Rules*, by Sean Carroll.