

History 7 Summer Reading Recommendations

2022

Teacher: Mr. Curtis

Hello Students! I hope you are enjoying the summer and especially this beautiful weather. This is Central New York's most pleasant season, so make sure you get outside to enjoy it.

And while you are outdoors, you'll want to get some reading done! I've got some ideas for that too! Remember **there is no required reading in the summer** for any of Curtis's classes; nevertheless, you will want to spend a good portion of the summer in the company of a good book (or more than one). Whether you take these suggestions or not, the important thing is that you **read** -- fiction or current events, fantasy or history, humor, graphic novels, poetry, old books, new books -- whatever strikes you.

I've made some suggestions below;

Eric Sloane, *Diary of an Early American Boy, Noah Blake 1805* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1962, 1990)

This delightful volume, though dated, is based on a diary written in 1805 and later discovered by Sloane. As interesting as the diary is, the real value in this work is Sloane's meticulous pen-and-ink drawings throughout, of tools, machines, early construction methods, topographical drawings etc. Anyone drawn to the old tool exhibit at the State Fair will enjoy this book.

Otto Bettmann, *The Good Old Days -- They Were Terrible!* (New York: Random House, 1974)

Like the Sloane, this book by Bettmann -- later founder of the Bettmann Archive -- contains excellent text but is notable for its illustrations, photographs, drawings, and other graphic reproductions of American life in about the 1890s. As the title indicates, the book focuses on the less savory aspects of life in the late 19th and early 20th century, with chapter titles such as "Air," "Traffic," "Housing," "Food and Drink," etc. You get the idea. You'll be grateful for the Pure Food and Drug Act after perusing this book.