

**Medway High School
Social Studies Department
Summer Reading Requirement**

9th Grade US History Honors- *Roots* by Alex Haley: A saga of African-American life, based on Alex Haley's family history. Kunta Kinte is abducted from his African village, sold into slavery, and taken to America. Throughout the series, the family observes notable events in U.S. history, such as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, slave uprisings, and emancipation.

10th Grade AP US History – *The Jungle*- by Upton Sinclair: A young Lithuanian immigrant arrives in America, bringing along with him his idea of the American dream. A vividly grim portrait of a turn-of-the-century American meat-packing factory, and the indictment that led to government regulations of the food industry, this book was a contribution to literature and social reform. (covering the Progressive Era – 1900-1915)

11th Grade AP European History – *A World Lit Only by Fire* (1992) by William Manchester - *A World Lit by Fire* is an informal history of the European Middle Ages. The student will be introduced to medieval European society, the time period before the Renaissance, the first topic of the AP European History curriculum. The text will be available for purchase at Barnes and Noble in Bellingham. Students must pick up a reading guide from Mr. Notidis or Mrs. Skinner before the end of the 2008-2009 school year. The guide is due on the first day of school.

Grade 11/12 AP Micro/Macro Economics – *Freakonomics* Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner describe how the principles and incentives of the economic discipline explain many of the events and problems that we encounter and hear about in the media everyday. Teachers cheating, the power of information, the behavior of drug gangs, the influences of law changes on crime rates, the behavior of parents, and many other behaviors are looked at through a whole new light using the prism of economic analysis. *Freakonomics* explodes many myths of conventional wisdom on a variety of topics in a way that brings home the fundamentals of economics in a very clear and entertaining way. Students find the book an entertaining and informative read.