



Portsmouth High School
Social Studies Department
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EUROPEAN HISTORY SUMMER READING

The following book is required reading for students entering the course. Below the list is an explanation of the assignment that corresponds with the book.

Level	Course	Required Summer Reading Title	Author
Sophomore	European History (honors & academic)	Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi

EUROPEAN HISTORY ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENT *ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS*

1. Read the entire book before the first day of school
2. Test will be given the first day of class
3. Write a 5-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting life in Stromford vs. Great Wexley

ESSAY: Each of the body paragraphs should compare the two locations and some points for consideration follow: Religion, Food/Drink, Family/Community, Entertainment/Art, Crime/Ethics, Labor/Occupations, Relationships, Class Structure, Health/Medicine, Government, Economy, and Architecture

As with all writing assignments at PHS plagiarism rules apply (see student handbook). The paper must be typed (double spaced, 12 point font) and cited using MLA format. While writing your paper, remember that the thesis statement should be the last sentence in your introductory paragraph and should be restated in your conclusion. Make sure you use at least 3 specific examples from the book to support the claims in your body paragraphs. The writing rubric is on the back of this page. One day late results in minus half a letter grade and two days late results in minus a full letter grade.

EUROPEAN HISTORY HONORS ASSIGNMENT *ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS*

1. Read the entire book and prepare for a test covering the entire book
 2. Write a five paragraph essay (see below)
 3. Design a medieval manor illustration (see below)

ESSAY: The Middle Ages are often characterized by the rigid structure of feudalism and the powerful authority of the Church. While life in the cities was based on commerce, life in the villages was monotonous and difficult. Through the adventures of the title character, Crispin provides some insight into life during the Middle Ages. Using specific evidence from the book, discuss the political, social, and economic structure of Medieval England in a five paragraph essay.

The paper must be typed (double spaced, 12 point font) and cited using MLA format. While writing your paper, remember that the thesis statement should be the last sentence in your introductory paragraph and should be restated in your conclusion. Make sure you use at least 3 specific examples from the book to support the claims in your body paragraphs. The writing rubric is on the back of this page. One day late results in minus half a letter grade and two days late results in minus a full letter grade.

ILLUSTRATION: Life for most people during the Middle Ages revolved around their feudal manors or villages. Create an illustration of Stromford based on the description in the book.

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