

**AP US 2**  
**Summer Reading**  
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**Introduction:**

Summer reading is an integral part of the AP process and this summer the reading selections will examine the “Wild West” and the implications for both Native American culture and for the “progress” of the United States. Through these selections pay attention to the themes, issues and personalities that have helped to shape our perceptions of the time period. We will look closely at the manner in which Americans learn about this dynamic period of our history and how the historiography has changed over time. Finally we will examine how and why these issues remain relevant to our culture today.

**Directions:**

You are responsible for one book and one assignment. Read carefully and examine points of view, especially with regard to how groups, events and policies are portrayed. I encourage you to take notes as you read to use as references for the written assessment. You have a choice of three written assignments that will be due within one week of your return to school. However, the assignment can be turned in early over the summer via email, and I encourage all of you to do this. Included in this handout is a general rubric for the written assignments.

**List One. Scholarly Work.**

- A. *Black Kettle: The Cheyenne Chief who Sought Peace but Found War.*  
By Thom Hatch
- B. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.* By Dee Brown
- C. *The Earth Shall Weep.* By James Wilson
- D. *The Apache Wars: The Final Resistance.* By Joseph Jastrzenski
- E. *Son of the Morning Star: Custer and the Little Big Horn.* By Evan S. Connell
- F. *The American West.* By Dee Brown
- G. *Blood and Thunder.* By Hampton Sides

**List Two: Historical Novel.**

- A. *How the West Was Won.* By Louis L'Amour
- B. *The Big Sky.* By A.B. Guthrie
- C. *The Way West.* By A.B. Guthrie
- D. *The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge: A Lakota Odyssey.* By [Joe Starita](#)
- E. *Arrest Sitting Bull.* By Douglas Jones

## Assignments:

**Choice #1 Scholarly book summary.** Write a paper of no more than 4 pages explaining the three central themes of the book. Explain each theme using specific examples from the book as well as a description of the author's reasoning. Be sure to use evidence.

**Choice #2 Quotations.** (Either book) List what you consider to be the MOST SIGNIFICANT 10 quotations in the text. For each quotation offer a paragraph to explain why each is significant and representative of the overall meaning of the book.

**Choice #3 Historical Novel Themes.** In a paper of no more than 4 pages compare and contrast the themes from the historical novel to actual events that took place. How well does the novel demonstrate these themes and how closely are they related to reality? Incorporate actual events to support your thoughts.

Enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing you and working with you in the fall. If you have any questions at all over the course of the summer please contact me via First Class email.