

Beacon Summer Reading: History 2009: 12th Grade Gettysburg

Please read The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows, by Gabor S. Boritt, Simon & Schuster: New York 2006. ISBN 0-7432-8820-3. The book is available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL.

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in this 12th grade class focusing on Gettysburg. There will be a writing assignment on the reading at the beginning of the school year.

There are 15 significant sections to this book: a Preface; eight (8) chapters, each of which focuses on a particular aspect of the Gettysburg Address, its impact, and legacy; four appendices; a section of Notes; and a bibliographic note. Please do the following:

- A) For the PREFACE, explain what the point of this book is, according to Boritt. In other words, explain the thesis and "argument" he is making in the Preface, in your own words.
- B) For each of the eight (8) chapters explain:
- 1) What is the specific issue that is being analyzed in this chapter? What is the point that Boritt is making here and WHY is he doing this - give evidence from the reading to support your answer (include in-text page citations). In addition, look at the Notes section at the end; briefly explain what kinds of sources Boritt has used to write each chapter, using some specific examples.
 - 2) When you are done reading, rank the 8 chapters in terms of their importance - with a brief explanation for why you put them in that order.
- C) Look through each of the four (4) appendices; what kinds of information do they contain and how are they helpful to understanding the issues in the book?
- D) Read "A Bibliographical Note: Dwarfs and Giants" at the end; based on the information contained here, if you could read only ONE additional book about this subject, explain which one it would be and WHY!
- E) Come to class on the first day in September with the book (if you buy it); this assignment; and any additional notes you take. Good luck!