

Beacon Summer Reading: History 2009: 12th Grade: Modern India

Please read White Tiger by Aravind Adiga and Planet India by Mira Kamdar. The books are readily available—get them used if you can.

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in 12th grade history next year and give you ideas for your 12th grade pba. There will be a writing assignment on the readings at the beginning of the school year.

Please do the following:

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga

Enjoy the novel. It is a quick read that gives you a flavor of the problems among the rich and poor, the higher and lower castes, and city and village life. As you read, keep in mind themes and metaphors that run through the book as well as an awareness of the setting and mood and the characters and their relationships with others.

Planet India by Mira Kamdar

A) For the INTRODUCTION, explain what the point of this book is, according to Kamdar. In other words, explain the thesis and "argument" she is making in the Introduction in your own words. After reading the book, does Kamdar effectively support her thesis? How?

B) Select 3 of the 7 chapters that interest you the most to write about. (That does not include the Introduction, the Conclusion or the Afterword.) Explain:

- 1) What is the problem discussed in that chapter? How does that problem impact India? Be sure to put it into a historical context. Cite figures and examples to support your answer (in-text citations). Read footnotes/endnotes for greater insights.
- 2) What have been India's attempts to solve the problem? How successful have these attempts been? How does this problem impact other parts of the world?

C) What is the main point of the "Conclusion"?

D) Why did Kamdar write an "Afterword"?

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!