

2011-12 Reading list for APES: The public library should have these/be able to get them for you if necessary. With the exception of Silent Spring, these will be used for extra credit. Read all now so that you won't be overloaded with reading during the school term!

Make notes as you read.

Silent Spring ISBN: 978-0618249060 by Rachel Carson Non-Fiction **REQUIRED**

The Good Earth ISBN: 978-0743272933 by Pearl S. Buck Fiction:

The Postman ISBN: 978-0553278743 by David Brin Fiction:

Bambi: A Life in the Woods ISBN: 978-0671666071 by Felix Salten Fiction:

This is not an English class. You will learn how to write in science. As you read, think about the scientific principles in each of these readings. The following are suggested lines of thinking, but they are not a complete list. Feel free to make your own connections.

Silent Spring: Written about the 1950's and 60's. This is after WWII and the Korean conflict. Progress is everywhere, and the US is doing great. Or is it? This book shows developing trouble in air, soil, water, and the environmental consequences of our arrogance. It's sometimes scary, so keep your perspective. You're reading history. Some things are better now, and some are worse, but in different ways, and we'll fill that in as we go through the year. Don't try to memorize chemical names. We're looking for BIG concepts here. For example, what happens when chemicals are used on weeds, not what happens when chemical X is used. I suggest you make notes, chapter by chapter, to help your recall them when the time comes! By the way, it's okay to set this one down from time to time when you get overwhelmed... just don't forget to come back to it!

Bambi: Published in 1928, this is a young adults book, but not the Disney version. Don't simply watch the movie. It's not the same thing! This book was written in Europe after WWI and before WWII. You should consider these historical events as you read. Look for the

interwoven adult themes in this novel. WRITE THEM DOWN. Remember, at this time there is no science of Conservation. There are no game officers protecting wildlife. It all begins here... and it happens to be at the same time Central High School is being built!

The Good Earth: Published in 1931, and not much different in the developing world today, The Good Earth is a look at poverty, women's roles and life in the developing world. A classic in many disciplines for many reasons. Look for why things happen. Compare these events to your world. Do those problems exist here? If so, where? If not, why not? Look for hunger and soil issues as well.³ The Jungle: This book was written at the turn of the last century, around 1905. If you're into history and politics, you'll love this oldie but a goodie, and it has shown up on many AP tests, not just APES... You're looking at health issues here, the role of women in the formation of health and labor boards, immigration issues and food

The Postman: Go on to the future! Once more, read the book, do not watch the movie. After all is said and done, what does the future hold for us if we don't improve our environmental problems? David Brin, a physicist, offers one scary possibility. Elements here are science fiction, but there's enough real, hard core science here to really make you think. When disaster strikes, the main character is your age. See how he copes with all of the changes in his world, and ask yourself the same questions Gordon does, such as, "Who's responsible?" Note societal changes, and ask yourself why they're necessary. Who ends up offering a workable solution? According to Brin, how can we avoid ending up in this mess, who do we need to be listening to, and why? In other words what is the message here, the deep, underlying meaning? Go beyond the surface. What does this have to do with science, how can you apply it to what you're seeing in the world? Again, make notes. This will be covered almost a year from now!

In addition, these aren't required, but if you're into movies, here are some good choices to prime your mind... Get parental permission before watching an R rated movie!

The Day After Tomorrow- Dennis Quaid 2004

The Rainmaker-Matt Damon, Danny DeVito, 1997

Erin Brokovich- Julia Roberts, 2000

A Civil Action-John Travolta, 1999

The River- Mel Gibson, 1984

Soylent Green- Charlton Heston, 1973 (yes darlings, it's old... but look at what we knew back then)

In addition, keep/start a list of books/movies that you think apply to share with others. I've got a long list, but there's always room for a few more from students. Half of the above were first recommended to me by students.