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Summer Reading 2019

Purpose

For the last several years, Tilton School has partnered with Portland, Maine's [Telling Room](#) for its summer reading & writing projects. Tilton's academic program has shared the Telling Room mission to empower students through writing and sharing "their voices with the world..., and to build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and provide real audiences for our students."

Focus

With this same vision in mind, Tilton School's Summer, 2019 project steps away from our Telling Room partnership and turns our attention back to New Hampshire with Wayne King's 2017 novel [Sacred Trust](#). The novel brings together a rag-tag group of environmental enthusiasts, from all ends of the political spectrum, who conspire against the construction of Granite Skyway, a power transmission project similar, if not identical, to the actual controversial project dubbed "[Northern Pass](#)."

In the process of recounting the hijinks of this group of eco-warriors, the novel raises a number of interpersonal, political, and environmental questions confronting us today:

- What does sustainability actually mean?
- Are all renewable energies created equal?
- What are the limits to free speech and civil disobedience?
- What, if anything, distinguishes "protest" from "terrorism?"
- In this current Anthropocene, can a single human being make a difference?
- What, if any, responsibility do we have to those who have lived before us or to those who will live after us? To those who live with us?
- What about social media? Can it move people to change? Can it move governments and corporations to change?
- What is a fact? What is the relationship between human freedom and access to "the facts?"
- Do individual voices matter?

Campus Visit by Wayne King, Sept. 6, 2019

Author Wayne King will be the featured speaker during our September First Friday Series on September 6, 2019. King, a former NH State Senator, 1994 Democratic nominee for Governor of NH and now CEO of an environmental clean-up company, MOP Environmental Solutions, Inc., worked his way through college as a White Mountain Guide. He will address many of the above questions and will invite more questions from the audience about his book, his photography and his work as a political activist from his “place on the porch,” his home in Rumney, New Hampshire.

The Summer Reading/Writing Process

1. Students should [purchase the novel](#) (either paperback or e-version) and complete a first reading of the novel before September 1.
2. We encourage students to document their reading experience in a **Reading Journal**.
3. For our purposes, a reading journal represents nothing more than a running account of the reader’s response to what is being read. It is likely that reading the entire novel will take six or seven hours. We recommend working at half-hour increments, leading to somewhere between a dozen and fifteen journal entries.
4. Students might use one or more of the following prompts for each entry:
 - I do not understand....
 - I noticed that....
 - I wonder about....
 - A question I have is....
 - This story (character, phrase, etc.) makes me feel/ think....
 - The setting is important because....
 - I really like/dislike this (idea, character, attitude, etc.) because....
 - What was the author/character thinking when he/she...?
 - This situation/character/plot event/theme reminds me of....
 - I wish the author had....
 - Now that I’ve read this passage, I think differently about....

Using these reflective-thinking prompts enhances our reading experience and offers us the opportunity to listen to and develop our own written voice. These prompts work with anything we choose to read (even a math or science textbook), at any time, and they develop the habits of frequent reading and reflective writing -- two targets of Tilton’s Academic Program.

5. To record their thoughts, students may use any format that works for them -- hand-written journal, a Google Doc, a Word Doc. We ask that students bring their reading journals with them when they arrive on campus in the fall.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mike Landroche, Academic Dean, at mlandroche@tiltonschool.org.