

Summer Reading: Form III History

All Third Form students are required to read a piece of historical fiction over the summer. The subject matter of the book cannot be mythological. On the second page of this letter is a list of authors and associated novels that have been approved for this project by the Third Form history teachers. Please select one of the approved novels as they have been judged appropriate for their historical and cultural content. Most of these works may be purchased on Amazon.com. It is important that you purchase the book since it will be used extensively during the early part of our year; **if your chosen title is available as an audiobook (on Audible, etc.), you may purchase and read the book in that manner.**

Our goal is for the books to parallel the Ancient World History curriculum; therefore, all works take place from **prehistory up through the fourteenth century**. It is important that your son be familiar with the basic sequence of events and central characters of his selected book when school begins. In September, he will be required to write a summary of the book and a brief description of the major characters. **In preparation for the research component of the assignment it would benefit your son to take notes on the primary historical and cultural topics in the book. We recommend that students read or re-read the book toward the end of the summer rather than the beginning.**

Some of the books on the list have graphic descriptions of life and war. If you would like guidance from us as to which book(s) would be appropriate for your son, or if there is a book that your son would like to read which is not on the list, please contact either Mr. Long or Mr. Tryon, who are two of the course instructors. Their email addresses are blong@haverford.org and ktryon@haverford.org.

APPROVED WORKS OF HISTORICAL FICTION, LISTED BY AUTHOR

Lindsey Davis *The Course of Honour*; Any novel from “The Falco Series”

PC (Paul) Doherty Any novel from “The Brother Athelstan” Series; Any novel from “The Hugh Corbett Medieval Mystery” Series; *An Evil Spirit out of the West*; *The Assassins of Isis*; *The Poisoner of Ptah*; *The Anubis Slayings*

Colin Falconer *When We Were Gods: A Novel of Cleopatra*

Michael Curtis Ford *The Ten Thousand*; *The Fall of Rome*; *The Last King*; *The Sword of Attila*; *Gods and Legions*

Robert Graves *I, Claudius*

Robert Harris *Imperium: A Novel of Ancient Rome*; *Pompeii*

Cecelia Holland *Pillar of the Sky: A Novel of Stonehenge*; *The Valley of the Kings*; *The Soul Thief*

Ross Leckie *Carthage: A Novel*; *Hannibal: A Novel*; *Scipio Africanus: A Novel*

Kanan Makiya *The Rock: A Tale of Seventh Century Jerusalem*

Nicholas Nicastro *The Isle of Stone: A Novel of Ancient Sparta*

Sharon Kay Penman Any novel from the Medieval Mystery Series (*As Cruel as the Grave*, *The Queen's Man*, et alia)

Steven Pressfield *Gates of Fire*; *The Virtues of War*; *The Tides of War*

Julian Rathbone *The Last King of England*

Mary Reed & Eric Mayer Any book from the series “John the Eunuch”

Steven Saylor Any novel from the “Ancient Rome Series”

H.N. Turteltaub *Justinian*

Gore Vidal *Julian*