

12TH GRADE REQUIRED HISTORY SUMMER READING 2023
Accelerated

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, 2010

This non-fiction book describes the causes and outcomes of the Great Migration, which occurred throughout the years 1915-1970. The author follows 3 different individuals: Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, George Swanson Starling, and Robert Joseph Pershing Foster as they suffered in the Jim Crow South and then migrated to various Northern cities in the 1930s during the Great Depression to escape violence and discrimination only to encounter continued racism in the North.

“What binds these stories together was the back against the wall, reluctant yet hopeful search for something better, any place but where they were. They did what human beings looking for freedom, throughout history, have often done. They left.” - Isabel Wilkerson

You are required to read the first four sections of this book which takes you through the section entitled “The Kinder Mistress.” (p. 431) There will be an in class writing for this book during the first or 2nd week of school.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Scheinmann (rscheinmann@jbha.org)

As you read, consider the following questions:

- 1) What were the major **economic**, **social** and **historical** forces that set the Great Migration in motion? Why did blacks leave in such great numbers from 1915 to 1970?
- 2) What unique challenges did black migrants face in the North?

As you read, highlight the role each of the following played in the causes and outcomes of the Great Migration.

- Sharecropping
- Education
- anti-Black violence
- Segregation
- Job opportunities/Equal pay
- Voting
- Criminal justice system
- Civil rights protests

Optional but Recommended Readings:

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
In the Garden of the Beasts by Eric Larson
The Plot Against America by Philip Roth
The Armies of the Night by Norman Mailer
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut
Is Paris Burning? by Collins & LaPierre
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Out of the Shadows by Rose Cohen
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Remarque
Only Yesterday by Frederick Lewis Allen
The Fixer by Bernard Malamud
The Future of Freedom by Fareed Zakaria
Black Boy by Richard Wright