Summer Assignments

Rising AP European History Students
Episcopal Collegiate School

In 1665, the intense young pastor of a rural English village infected by the bubonic plague persuades everyone to quarantine from the outside world. This selfless decision leads to the deaths of two-thirds of the inhabitants but saves the surrounding towns, as it did in the case of the actual historical village that inspired the tale. *Year of Wonders* is the fictional account of this event supported by historical research into such things as 17th-century lead-mining, medicine, and rural superstitions complete with witch trials. It provides readers with a way to imagine how normal people are changed by fear, despair, and catastrophe. A rare few—including the narrator, a young widow who is a servant of the pastor—discover new strengths and abilities.

Required: Read: *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

ISBN# 0142001430

Recommended:

All students will have a writing assignment based on this book due the second week of school. Exact instructions for writing will be given on the first day of school. For now, just read it and enjoy it.

Questions? Email Dr. Hall at bhall@episcopalcollegiate.org