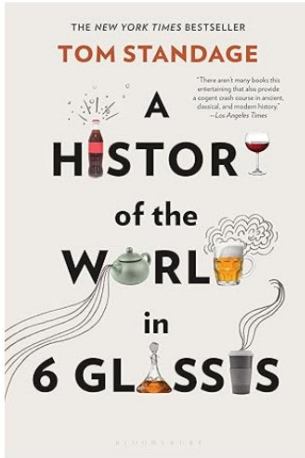


DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

FRESHMAN HONORS WORLD HISTORY

The Summer Reading Book: This year's summer reading assignment is A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Tom Standage. You are responsible to borrow or purchase this book on your own. It will NOT be provided by DLS.



The author looks at the development of world civilizations through the prism of the beverages that people drank in various time periods. These are (in chronological order): beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea and Coca-Cola. The use of this book as a summer reading assignment in no way represents any endorsement by the teachers or administration of De La Salle High School of the use or misuse of any of these beverages, alcoholic, caffeinated or otherwise. The book merely offers an innovative and (hopefully) interesting perspective to initiate our year-long discussion of world history. Our purpose in reading the book is to get a sense of how civilizations and cultures develop and how numerous forces (political, technological, economic, social, religious, cultural, ecological) all affect even the most mundane-seeming aspects of people's daily lives. If you cannot find an individual or library who has the book, you might have to purchase it.

Your Assignment: For your assignment, you will read the ENTIRE book A History of the World in Six Glasses. Don't panic—it is very readable, and hopefully you will find it quite interesting.

Please read all the instructions carefully.

The Journal

- You will keep a dialectical journal entry for EACH GLASS, plus one entry for the "INTRODUCTION" and one entry for the "EPILOGUE". (8 entries/pages total)
- A dialectical journal uses 2 columns—one for recording facts and/or quotes from the reading, and the second for writing your own commentary, analysis, or questions. You MUST insert a table and type your entries inside the table. It must be the correct format (chart extends to the 1" margins, no space left inside the boxes- just like below). You must avoid "white space" in your table. Adjust the center line as needed to reduce the amount of blank space on the page. If you need help with formatting, you can email me your assignment BEFORE THE DEADLINE, and I will help you fix it. You will lose points if it is not formatted properly.
- The number of quotes per entry/page is dependent upon how long your analysis is for each quote. You must have at least one complete page per glass/intro/epilogue.
- Here is a sample:

Quote or Paraphrased Fact	My Commentary & Analysis
"The dominant drink of [the] Age of Reason was coffee... introduced to Europe from the Middle East" (pg 4).	Coffee wakes up the brain, allowing for clearer thinking. No wonder I see so many professors carrying cups of coffee and so many study groups taking place at coffeehouses!

- In the last column, **focus on making connections to your prior knowledge and providing analysis of the author's ideas (i.e. What is significant? What did you find interesting & why?).**

- You must type the final draft of your journal entries. **Please use 12-pt. Times New Roman font.**
- Each entry (glass) should be a minimum of one full page (you may go over a page, but try to be concise!)

Journal entries should be bound together in a portfolio/report cover (staple in the upper left corner is fine as well) with an illustrated (hand drawn) cover sheet and a typed table of contents. **The portfolio is to be turned in on August 14, 2026.**

Grading: This assignment will be your first MAJOR grade! The grade will be based on your thoughtful completion of the journals (including attention paid to the instructions provided above). Also, be prepared to discuss the book within the first days of school!! *Final Words to Students: I advise you to pace your reading/writing over a few weeks during the summer.

Guided Reading Questions—OPTIONAL

A History of the World in Six Glasses by Tom Standage

Consider these questions as you read through the book. You might address some of these topics/ideas in your journal entries . . .

Introduction—"Vital Fluids" 1. What is the author's main thesis (argument) in setting up his book? Why/how are these fluids "vital"?

"Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt" (Chapters 1 and 2):

1. How might beer have influenced the transition from hunting and gathering (Paleolithic) to agricultural-based (Neolithic) societies?
2. What does the story of beer tell you about social and gender roles in ancient SW Asia and Egypt?
3. How important do you think beer was in the growth and diffusion of the earliest civilizations? Would the earliest civilizations of SW Asia and Egypt have been as prosperous without the discovery of beer?

"Wine in Greece and Rome" (Chapters 3 and 4):

1. What does the story of wine tell you about social and gender roles in the Mediterranean world? How did this change over time?
2. Explain how the symposia and wine-drinking related to the development (and self-image) of ancient Greece (as compared to other parts of the world).
3. What effect does wine have on the development of Christianity and of Islam (separately)?

"Spirits in the Colonial Period" (Chapters 5 and 6):

1. How did spirits advance/accelerate colonialism?
2. In the 18th century, how did spirits change the balance of power amongst the western European nations (particularly Britain and France)?
3. How did spirits help in the building and shaping of early America (politically and economically)?

"Coffee in the Age of Reason" (Chapters 7 and 8):

1. Why did coffee become known to Europeans as the "antithesis of alcohol"? And how will this change the intellectual development of Europe?

2. Was coffee the first true “global” beverage? Why or why not?
3. How (and why) did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and French Revolution? “

Tea and the British Empire” (Chapters 9 and 10):

1. Why was tea important to China’s economy, and how did it affect China’s relationships with other countries?
2. Explain the relationship between tea and a) the Industrial Revolution, and b) and b) the expansion of the British Empire.
3. Compare and contrast how the British trade in tea affected America and India.

“Coca-Cola and the Rise of America” (Chapters 11 and 12):

1. How does the story of Coca-Cola relate to the rise of capitalism and entrepreneurship in the 19th and early 20th c? How does this story show a larger global economic shift?
2. How did Coca-Cola become the world’s most recognized product?
3. How does Coca-Cola affect people’s views of the United States? Is the spread of Coca-Cola an example of “Americanization” around the world?

Epilogue—“Back to the Source”

1. Do you agree or disagree with Standage’s argument in the epilogue? Will water be the most influential beverage in shaping the global situation of the next 100+ years? Why or why not?