

Geneva Classical Academy – Summer Reading
European History – 10th Grade

For many Europeans, the turn of the twentieth century was a time of great optimism: technology was advancing, scientific progress was rapid, and a dramatic rise in the standard of living appeared ubiquitous. In short, people across the societal spectrum were living happier, healthier, and more comfortable lives, and the progress seemed to have no end in sight. And then World War I descended on the European landscape, and everything changed. All of the optimism that characterized the turn of the century was transformed into hopelessness, uncertainty, and despair as the world witnessed death and carnage on a scale never before seen in human history, only to be followed two decades later by a grander and more gruesome version of the same. What had all this technological progress—if *progress* was even the right word—brought if not the ability to inflict greater destruction than ever?

And so the twentieth century became a century of great despair, devastation, and uncertainty.

In keeping with our study of European History since 1500, your summer reading is Erich Maria Remarque's classic World War I novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. After discussing this novel, we will begin our studies with the Reformation in the 1500s. Over the course of the year, we will work our way back up to the twentieth century.

You will respond to this novel by writing a one-page essay and a creative piece. In your essay, you will answer the following questions:

- What is the overall depiction of war in this novel?
- Does the novel differ in any substantial ways with other movies you have seen or books you have read about wars?
- Is the novel ultimately hopeless, or is there some sense of hope? Make your argument for one of these positions.
- Are there any ways in which this novel is consistent or inconsistent with the Christian worldview? Give examples.

In your creative piece, you'll be adding a scene that is missing from the book. Remarque wrote it for inclusion in the book, but he died before he could get it to his publisher. It has been lost ever since, but the good news is that you have found it! Now you're going to share it with us. It should include at least some dialogue and some description of the setting. It should also involve characters from the book, it should fit within the plot of the

book, and it should be consistent with the themes of the book. Keep in mind that it is no longer than two pages!

Take your time and thoughtfully compose your essay and your creative piece. They should be logical, well-written, and cohesive. Be sure that you draw specific examples from the text to support your claims in your essay, and be ready to share your missing chapter with the class on our first day back!

Enjoy your summer and your summer reading,

Mr. Strawbridge

Summer Reading rising 10th and 11th graders – Math

Math with Bad Drawings by Ben Orlin

ISBN: 978-0-316-50903-9

Assignment:

Provide an **adumbrated** summary of one chapter in each part. There are 5 parts

Chapters 1-5: one summarized chapter.

Chapters 6-10: one summarized chapter

Chapters 11-15: one summarized chapter

Chapters 16-20: one summarized chapter

Chapters 21-24: one summarized chapter

5 total summaries required. Have a great summer. If you have any questions email or call me.

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