Summer Reading for Pre-AP World History 2012-2013: *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn

The actions that each man and woman has taken over time; has led each one of us to where we are in the world today. It is the story of man. We call that story “history”, and history is recorded by many different people, with different viewpoints and backgrounds. Whenever you study history, you always need to take into account the historical perspective of the source. When studying history, we do not just look at events or people because they happened, but look at how man has shaped the world around him throughout time.

*Ishmael* is about one man’s intellectual journey in understanding the world around him. Understanding the world around us is essential in truly studying history. While people, dates, events, and places are important in history, historians also look into the human culture and how man has shaped the world, which is reflected in *Ishmael*. Most people do not realize the amount of time historians dedicate to analyzing human culture and trends, but this however, is why history goes into the category of social studies, along with subjects such as sociology and psychology.

Reading is not simply looking at words on a page. It is a process of reviewing those words and analyzing their greater meaning. This may require you to read the material more than once. It is expected that the student approach any and all topics with a mature attitude. Please be aware that any opinions, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the book are not necessarily those of HISD or the teacher and are not intended to change your beliefs, they are simply to get your thought process started.

Acquiring the book:
- The book may be purchased from a bookstore. (Ex. Hastings, Barnes & Noble)
- The book may be purchased online (shipping may take several weeks, so please plan accordingly).

Tips:
1. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE!** Commit yourself to reading a pre-determined amount per day so that you’re not overloaded with work the last few weeks of the summer. Complete the assignment as you read the book.
2. The book is written in Socratic style. It asks you questions and has you think about the answer. It will not simply state the answer for you. You may have to read certain passages more than once and that is okay. In fact, it will be beneficial to you.
3. Do not be put off by the narrator’s teacher, who happens to be a lowland gorilla. Winnie the Pooh, Mickey Mouse, and Scooby Doo have been talking to most of you for many years.
4. If finishing the book early in the summer, you might want to review it before the school year begins to be prepared for the test.
5. You need to read the book. Do NOT rely on someone else to read it for you and tell you about it. They will not be taking the test for you.
6. Do NOT copy down someone else’s answers. If any part of the assignment is plagiarized to any extent, the entire assignment will be given a zero.

Assignment:

The assignment is due on the first day you come to class. We will be discussing *Ishmael* and taking a test over the summer reading during the first week of school.

The assignment may be typed or handwritten. If typed then it needs to be in 12 pt font in Times New Roman. If hand-written, then on wide ruled notebook paper with a smooth left edge and in blue or black ink pen only. Please write legibly. If I cannot read it, then I will not be able to grade it.

-Read *Ishmael*
- For each of the 13 chapters of the book, not the smaller sub-sections in each chapter:
  - write a half page summary of the whole chapter
  - write a reflection about the chapter (3 to 5 sentences)
    - Suggestions for reflection: What are your thoughts over a certain passage? Questions that you may have? Do you have an opinion about a certain topic mentioned in the passage? Clarification over certain terms?