

Name: _____

Summer Reading: Advanced Placement United States History II

Summer Reading Assignment

The Devil in the White City, by Erik Larson

The summer reading assignment in AP US History is *The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson (2004). This book weaves together the stories of two men: 1893 Chicago World's Fair architect Daniel Burnham and serial killer Dr. H. H. Holmes.

During the beginning of the course, we will examine many aspects of turn-of-the-century America. These aspects, listed in the bullets below, are all present in Larson's novel. The stories of Daniel Burnham, H.H. Holmes, and the 1893 Chicago World's Fair reflect these themes.

Directions: As you read the novel, find examples and quotations which correspond to each historical theme below. Mark them with post-its. Then, after you've finished reading, choose the best passages/examples to illuminate each of the three themes. Type a log listing the passages and examples, citing page numbers. **For each passage and example, provide a 1-2 sentence explanation detailing how it is representative of the theme.** Each theme should be covered in one single spaced page, making your reading log a total of 3 single spaced pages.

Reading Log

- How does the narrative reflect **modernization** and **invention** on a never-before-seen scale? In what ways did the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 change America? What lasting inventions and ideas did it introduce into American culture?
- How does the narrative reflect the ever increasing **gap between the rich and poor/unequal distribution of wealth**? In what ways does the Fair bring into focus the extreme contrasts of the Gilded Age?
- How does the narrative reflect the **growing pains** faced by a **rapidly industrializing nation** and explain the **call for progressive reforms** that arose during the period?