

U.S. History Honors  
Summer Reading  
Mrs. Kim Gardner  
2017-2018

This summer I would like you to read *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. It is my intention that through reading this book you will gain insight that will apply to your study of successful people in U.S. History. I also hope that it prompts you to consider your own academic, professional and personal goals. You will want to annotate passages that make an impression on you. Throughout the school year, we will revisit Gladwell's book both in class discussions and in written work.

Please answer the following as you read. **Have your typed questions ready to turn in on the first day of class.**

**Pre-Reading Questions:**

1. How do you define "the American Dream"?
2. Do you believe that the American Dream is open to everyone? Explain.
3. What is success?
4. What are the factors both in and beyond our control that may impact our ability to be successful?
5. What are the links between hard work and success? Between luck and success?

**Questions to answer while reading *Outliers*:**

6. What idea or ideas is Gladwell setting up through talking about the Rosetans in the introduction and the Canadian youth hockey players in the first chapter?
7. Explain the significance of the 10,000 hour rule and how Gladwell uses Bill Joy, Bill Gates, and the Beatles as proof of his 10,000 hour theory.
8. Describe Annette Lareau's study and discuss with some examples whether the environment you grow up in is more like "concerted cultivation" or "accomplishment of natural growth."
9. What conclusion can one draw from the life story of Chris Langan, as related in the chapter "The Trouble with Geniuses Part 2" and what is the significance of discussing different types of IQ's when discussing Langan?
10. Put in your own words the "three lessons of Joe Flom" which Gladwell identifies as "the importance of being Jewish," "demographic luck," and "meaningful work."
11. From chapter 8, what language related theory does Gladwell offer to explain the proclivity of Asians for math?
12. In what way does his discussion of rice farming relate back to the to the 10,000 hour rule?

(questions continued on next page)

13. Review the proof Gladwell uses to support it and then discuss the statement “virtually all of the advantage wealthy students have over poor students is the result of differences in the way privileged kids learn when they are not in school.”
14. Explain Gladwell’s ultimate conclusion that “The outlier, in the end, is not an outlier at all.”
15. This book is filled with people’s stories illustrating the various points Gladwell is trying to make throughout. Write a paragraph about whose story you found most interesting, whose story really caught your attention, and explain why.
16. Describe how you anticipate applying what you learned reading *Outliers* to the study of United States History this school year.