

To: Rising Seniors Enrolled in A. P. European History for Next Year

From: Ms. Kelley Walker, Instructor

Dear Students,

Because we will cover two semesters of college material in less time here at Millbrook, I **require** that you complete a summer reading assignment before class begins in August. This reading will refresh your memory about the Middle Ages and the Renaissance from your World History course and better enable us to “hit the ground running” when school begins. In addition, your willingness to read a book over the summer will help you to achieve a mindset necessary to tackle this college-level course!

Please read Katherine by Anya Seton. It is a well-written piece of historical fiction that incorporates all aspects of the Middle Ages in an enjoyable read! The book is available at your local bookstore or from a former MHS A. P. Euro student.

The following questions will help guide your reading. I am not requiring that you turn these questions in, but a test will be administered at the beginning of the year incorporating answers to these questions:

1. Explain the rigidity of the social classes in the Middle Ages. What choices did each level have and **not** have as pertains to marriage, occupation, dress, etc.?
2. What role did the Catholic religion play in the lives of everyday Europeans? Be sure to cite specific examples from the book.
3. What evidence was there that the Catholic Church was corrupt in its teachings and its practices? Again, be specific.
4. Why did each child of the Duke and Katherine experience such joy at the prospect of being “legitimated” by the Church and the king at the end of the book? That is, what opportunities emerged for each?

Feel free to come by and see me, Ms. Walker, in room 2401 if I can be of any assistance.