

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to AP World History! I am excited to meet you and to share my passion for history. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to talk about the summer assignment.

I am a Sion alumna, and I just completed my Ph.D. in European History at the University of Kansas (KU). My emphasis is in modern Europe, religion, and women's history. I also have a B.A. in history from KU with an emphasis in the United States, Latin America, and modern Western Europe. I have taught several introductory and intermediate history classes at KU including World History. AP World History is a challenging, college-level class, and I look forward to using my experience to help students succeed on the AP exam in May. I will provide students with more information about the AP exam in class, but feel free to familiarize yourself with the course overview and exam description at: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-world-history>.

For their summer assignment, students will read and answer questions about *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*, second edition.\* This book will help students practice the skills they need for the AP exam, especially analyzing primary and secondary sources. The book is about Abina Mansah, a West African woman, who brought charges against her "master" in the 1870s for wrongfully enslaving her. Part I of the book is a 75-page graphic history, or a comic book-like interpretation, of Abina's court case. It is a secondary source, which is a source created by someone—in this case a historian—who was not directly involved in the event. It offers us an example of the way that historians interpret the past and communicate it to others. Part II is a primary source, or a transcript of the original 1876 court case. This gives students practice looking at firsthand evidence by a person directly involved in the event. Comparing the graphic history with the original transcript also allows students to better understand the possibilities and limits of primary and secondary sources. Part III provides important background information about a stretch of West Africa called the Gold Coast, and Part IV is a reading guide that explains the ethics and methods involved in turning a document into a graphic history.

Students are reading this book not only to practice important skills, but also because it is widely used in high school and university classrooms, and it is well regarded by academic and teaching communities. *Abina* is published by Oxford University Press, and it won the James Harvey Robinson Prize from the American Historical Association for its "outstanding contribution to the learning of history." (The American Historical Association is the largest professional organization of historians in the United States.) It may be surprising to see a comic strip in a history book, but this has become a credible method for historians to engage students of all levels and learning styles. Maryanne A. Rhett's review in the *Journal of World History* calls *Abina and the Important Men* "a tremendous step forward for the world history community." Rhett states that the author of *Abina*, Trevor R. Getz, a professor of African history at San Francisco State University, gives "thorough scholarly credence to the format."

It is my hope that students not only enjoy the summer reading, but that they think more deeply about the meaning of history. Please feel free to contact me at [thersh@ndsion.edu](mailto:thersh@ndsion.edu) if you have any questions about the class or the summer reading assignment.

Most sincerely,  
Taylor Hersh, Ph.D.

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\*Please note that in this case, "graphic" refers to images in a comic-strip format and NOT to violence or sexual explicitness.

AP World History Summer Assignment  
Dr. Hersh

**I. Purchase and read *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*, Second Edition,  
By Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke**

ISBN-13: 978-0190238742

ISBN-10: 0190238747

**Note: Make sure you purchase the second edition.**

Your assignment:

1.) **READ** p. xi-157 of *Abina and the Important Men* (Contents, Part I, Part II, Part III, and Part IV).

2.) **ANSWER READING QUESTIONS** on p. 185-186, numbers 1-10.

-Please write in complete sentences, and answer the questions in your own words.

-You should include specific examples or short quotes from **the original transcript** (NOT the graphic history) with the page numbers where you found those examples.

-Depending on the question, your answer might be between 3-7 sentences in length.

Keep in mind that your answers will be graded based on quality and not quantity.

-Please type and print out your responses. You will hand in your answers to the 10 questions during the first week of school.

**IMPORTANT:** You are capable, intelligent young women who are learning the skills that historians use everyday. I do not expect perfection, but I do expect effort and honesty. Taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own is called **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is cheating and is a very serious offense in high school and in your future college and workplace. Please submit only your own work. If you have questions about what plagiarism means, please ask Dr. Hersh.

3.) **STUDY** the following terms defined in the glossary on p. 213-217:

-Colonialism

-Colony

-Construct

-Cultural History

-Deconstruct

-Fante Confederation

-Gold Coast

-Graphic History

-Heritage

-Historicization

-Matrilineality

-Paternalism

-People Without History

-Primary Source

-Protectorate

-Reconstruct

-Secondary Source

-Social History

-Whig

-You do not need to memorize the terms word for word, but you should have a general understanding of what each one means. Some of these terms will appear on tests in class and on the AP exam in May.

**II. Beginning August 1, 2017 Buy Princeton Review's *Cracking the AP World History Exam 2018, Premium Edition.***

Note: The 2018 premium edition is available beginning August 1, 2017. Please be sure to purchase this edition.

You do not need to prepare anything from *Cracking the AP World History Exam* over the summer. Please be sure you have it by the first week of class.