AP Environmental Science

Summer Assignment 2023

This summer:

1. **Choose** a book on an environmental topic.
2. **Read** it.
3. As you read, **write (or type)** some notes on each chapter. What are the main points? What do you find interesting, shocking, worrisome, odd? What questions come to mind?
4. **Summarize and review** the book in whatever way you choose. A paper, a powerpoint, video, audio, something else. Include your opinion. Was its main focus scientific, educational, political, economic, other?
5. You will **present** your summary/review to the class during the first week of school. This presentation should be about 5 minutes and should stimulate discussion. You should be well-prepared. Even if you didn’t do a ppt for the submitted product, a powerpoint with a few visuals or other cues could be helpful. You should NOT simply read something. If you truly read your book, you’ll have no problem telling your friends what it’s about. But don’t stress too much about the presentation part – most of the grade is on the submitted product. The point of the presentations is to allow others to learn from your reading – and maybe spark someone else’s interest. You should also be able to answer intelligently any questions I or the class pose.

**Timeline**

1. ASAP, before June 16, tell Mr. Villers what you’re planning to read. Everyone must read a different book.
2. Because everyone must read a different book, check that your book isn’t taken and enter your name and book choice in this [spreadsheet](https://roacps-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/svillers_rcps_info/EUnLhDkzzfxPplNABAZP_68B_F5jaTc-OO_i-s_NL-hk3A?e=cnrmc2) by June 16.
3. Now through August 15, read book and take notes.
4. August 15 – email your notes me – this can be a photo or scan of handwritten notes – I just want to see you did something
5. August 15 – email your completed summary/review to me at [svillers@rvgs.k12.va.us](mailto:svillers@rvgs.k12.va.us). (I don’t know if Canvas will be available yet.).
6. August 22-25 – be ready to present to the class.

**Book List**

This is a *suggested* list that was updated last year. Feel free to do your own search, such as “[Environmental Books 2023](https://www.google.com/search?q=environmental+books+2023&rlz=1C1GCEB_enUS965US965&oq=environmental+books+2023&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30j0i390i650.13469j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on)”, or stroll through the science books at Barnes and Noble or the local library and choose something that interests you. Clear your choice with me before purchasing or borrowing, and definitely before reading. No children’s books.

*Hidden Life of Trees*, 2015, Peter Wohlleben

*The Ocean of Life: The Fate of Man and the Sea*, 2012, Callum Roberts

*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, 2014, Elizabeth Kolbert

*Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*, 2021, Elizabeth Kolbert

*Lost Feast: Culinary Extinction and the Future of Food,* 2019, Lenore Newman

*Nature’s Best Hope*, 2020, Douglas Tallamy

*The Hot Zone*, 1994, Richard Preston

*The Diversity of Life*, 1992, Edward O. Wilson

*Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, 2021, Suzanne Simard

*Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, 2005, Jared Diamond

*Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic,* 2012, David Quammen

*Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction,* 1997, David Quammen

*Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way we Make Things*, 2002, Michael Braungart and William McDonough

*Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World,* 1998, Mark Kurlansky

*Half-Earth: Our Planet’s Fight For Life,* 2016, Edward O. Wilson

*Gonna Trouble the Water: Ecojustice, Water, and Environmental Racism*, 2021, ed. by Miguel A. De La Torre

*The Uninhabitable Earth: A Story of the Future (Life After Warming*), David Wallace-Wells

*The End of Nature*, 1989, Bill McKibben

*The Wizard and The Prophet*, 2018, Charles C. Mann (Mr. Levy recommended this one to me)

*The Carbon Almanac: It’s Not Too Late*, 2022, The Carbon Almanac Network

*The Insect Crisis*, 2022, Oliver Milman