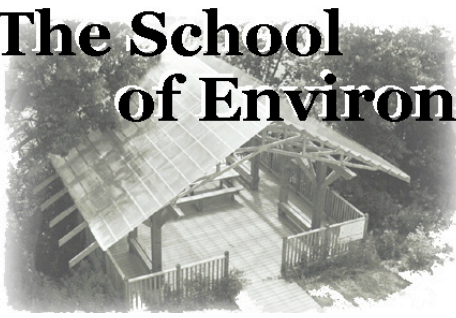


The School of Environmental Studies

at the Minnesota Zoo



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Dear SES Junior:

Welcome to the School of Environmental Studies! We hope you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to an exciting year at SES. We'd like to share some important information that will help you prepare for our studies as you join us in the fall. As the summer passes, feel free to check the SES Website for more information at <http://www.district196.org/ses>. If you have questions, send us an email at greatschool@district196.org.

Summer Reading Requirement

We require incoming juniors to complete some summer reading (2 books) to help us more effectively build our learning community in the fall. When school begins on **Tuesday, September 8**, we will ask you to bring some new perspectives and ideas from your reading into our discussions.

Books are available at local bookstores and libraries; you may also check Half-Price Books for used copies. You could order the books on-line from Amazon.com or other Internet sources. You may also find audio copies of these books at <http://www.audible.com> or other sources.

Book #1: *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, by Candice Millard
All juniors should read this book by September 8.

As you read, take notes on these 4 questions:

1. What mental pictures do you get of the Amazon landscape and community of travelers in the book? (What do you see as you read?)
2. What decisions does Roosevelt face along his journey, and what are the consequences of his decisions?
3. What are the relationships between Roosevelt and both the natural world and the human communities he encounters?
4. What does Roosevelt learn through his journey?

Book #2: *Your Choice of ONE Book from the SES Common Reading List*

In the first two weeks of school, all SES students (juniors AND seniors) will meet in small groups to discuss these common books. As you read your choice, take some notes on these 4 questions to bring to those discussions:

1. Trace the personal journey of the main character(s) in the book.
2. Describe the ethical decisions made by the characters - what are the motivations for and consequences of their choices?
3. Describe the relationships between the characters and their communities.
4. Describe what the book tells us about cultural identity and cultural conflict.

Pick one:

- ***The Poisonwood Bible***, Barbara Kingsolver - "a powerful novel which follows a missionary family as they travel from Georgia to the Belgian Congo in the late 1950s, entwining their fate with that of the country...Told in the voices of the mother and four daughters, the novel spans 30 years and a variety of perspectives, both personal and political, as the women seek to understand each other and the continent that tore them apart."
- ***A Walk in The Woods***, Bill Bryson - "tackles the topic of the American wilderness. Accompanied only by his old college buddy Stephen Katz, Bryson attempts to hike the 2100 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine...the reader is treated to both a very funny personal memoir and a delightful chronicle of the trail, the people who created it, and the places it passes through."

- *Cat's Cradle*, Kurt Vonnegut - "an entertaining and satirical apocalyptic tale of the planet's ultimate fate, featuring a cast of unlikely heroes...scientists and G-men and even ordinary folks caught up in the game. These assorted characters chase each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature."
- *Tracks, A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1,700 Miles of Australian Outback*, Robyn Davidson - "A cult classic with an ever-growing audience, *Tracks* is the brilliantly written and frequently hilarious account of a young woman's odyssey through the deserts of Australia, with no one but her dog and four camels as companions. Davidson emerges as a heroine who combines extraordinary courage with exquisite sensitivity." (reviews from Amazon.com)

Summer Reading Support:

By mid-July, there will be a link on the SES website that will offer more information on the summer books

http://www.district196.org/ses/03_04/SESforums/index.cfm

This site will have:

- Information on each of the books
- A place to talk about the books with other students and even teachers
- Activities to do before you read, while you read and after you read
- Maps, pictures, etc. related to the books

If you are taking AP English Language & Composition and/or AP World History:

We suggest that you prepare for your AP experience by keeping up on current events and formulating informed opinions on the issues of the day. Two great sources that can be accessed online are:

- *New York Times* at <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- *Atlantic Monthly* at <http://www.theatlantic.com/>

SES Junior Supply List

Required items:	Optional items:
<p><u>Bring these items the first day of school:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardcover journal such as a Mead Composition book. Please, <u>no spiral bound</u> notebooks for our house classes. • 3-ring binder & folder • Planner or assignment book • Pens, pencils, markers • Colored pencils • Post-it notes for marking books as you read <p><u>You will need these items within the first week of school:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash drive • Clipboard • Shoes suitable for hiking around forests & fields • Some extra clothes to be left at school that will help you be prepared for any weather (rain poncho, sweatshirt, gloves, hat, extra socks, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Identification Guides such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Minnesota Trees</i>, by David Rathke from the DNR (ISBN 0-9623116-1-8) • Other field guides of your choice; but be looking for guides of Eastern or MN species • Dictionary/Thesaurus • Highlighters • Stapler • Tape • Glue stick • Ruler • Scissors • Kleenex • Potted plants (with saucers to catch the water) • Photos and other desk decorations • You may have small pets at your desk, but no birds or mammals.

Have a great summer! We look forward to working with you at SES!



The Junior Teachers:

- Roger Everhart
- Scott Haisting
- Craig Nowicki
- Anne Swanson
- Jane Tunseth
- Hillary Wackman
- Jean Unzicker