



Living Environment: Summer Reading

Congratulations! You have been selected to take Living Environment as your 8th grade science class. You have demonstrated a proficiency and interest in science on exams and to your teachers. This class should prove to be very rewarding for every student who has an interest in exploring their environment, their place and effect on it, and how people can make it better for all living things. The course concludes with students taking the New York State Regents Exam in Living Environment. Please see my website verderbz.com for more information

Mandatory Summer Reading Assignment:

The Demon in the Freezer by Richard Preston (292 pages, incl. glossary)

The book is in paperback for \$7.99 and can be ordered from Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com. It can also be ordered from the New York Public Library through the reserve system for free.

Reading about a real- life experience with scientists who are dealing with diseases such as small pox and anthrax and the front- line fight to protect people from biological weapons will probably be a new reading experience for you. The genre of narrative non- fiction can be even more gripping when we know that these events are real and meet the people who actually do the work and how they make decisions that affect everyone. This book explains how scientists work in critically secure laboratories, and play a larger role in society and in political decision – making.

Reading Journal

For each chapter heading (8), make a note of 10- 12 important facts, events, decisions, etc. that occur in the chapter to create a thoughtful summary. You will be using this journal for a project and class discussion when you return to school in September.

Students should also create a glossary at the back of their journal of new and unfamiliar terms and words.

Some thoughts to keep in mind while you read:

- The disease process in victims
- The impacts on the health of the public
- The economic impact on society
- The roles scientists play
- The impact of smallpox eradication on the world
- Bioterrorism
- Glossary of new terms

This book will count towards one of your 25 required books in ELA

Daily Supplies for Course: Any type of notebook (marble preferred), 2 pens, 2 pencils, colored pencils.