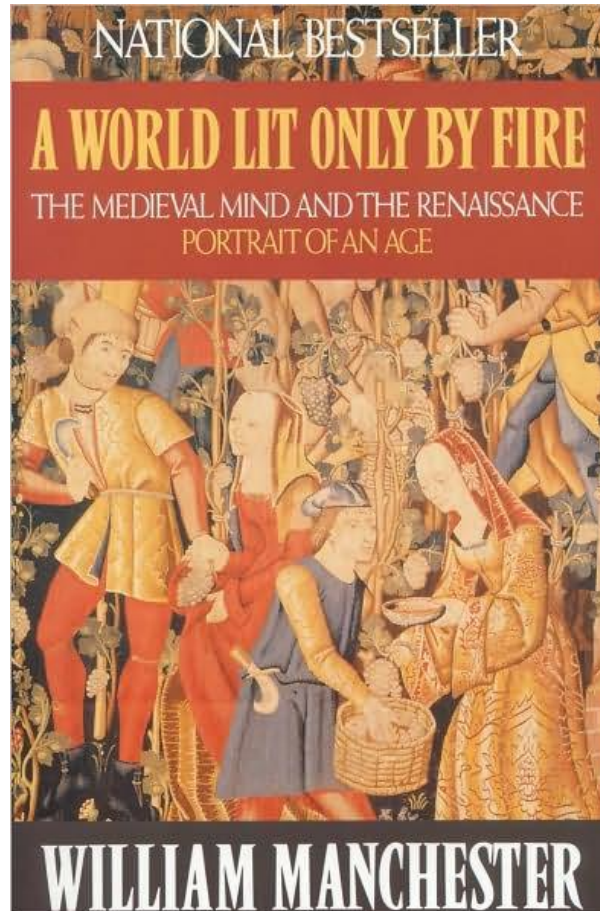


AP European History Summer Reading

**A World Lit Only By Fire** by William Manchester



ISBN: 0 – 316-54531-7

ISBN: 0 - 316-54556-2

Little, Brown and Company. New York. 1993.

**The following is a review of the book from Publishers Weekly:**

Using only secondary sources, Manchester plunges readers into the medieval mind-set in a captivating, marvelously vivid popular history that humanizes the tumultuous span from the Dark Ages to the dawn of the Renaissance. He delineates an age when invisible spirits infested the air, when tolerance was seen as treachery and a mafia of profane popes desecrated Christianity. Besides re-creating the arduous lives of ordinary people, the Wesleyan professor of history peoples his tapestry with such figures as Leonardo, Machiavelli, Lucrezia Borgia, Erasmus, Luther, Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Manchester devotes much attention to Magellan, whose globe-straddling voyage shattered Christendom's implicit belief in Europe as the center

of the universe. His portrayal of the Middle Ages as a time when the strong and the shrewd flourished, while the imaginative, the cerebral and the unfortunate suffered, rings true.

### **Your Responsibility**

Write a literary critique of *A World Lit Only By Fire*. A critique examines the work's components and evaluates how they all fit together to achieve the author's purpose. Carefully read the book, determine the author's intent for writing the book, evaluate how and to what extent the characters in the book, the tone of the book, the individual stories in the book and other individual components achieve the author's intent. Ultimately you are to demonstrate to me that you read and understood the book. You are also demonstrating to me your ability to write a thesis driven essay.

### **Requirements**

- \*Thesis supported with evidence from the summer reading book
- \*No first person
- \*No citations except for page numbers from *A World Lit Only By Fire*. Do not use any other sources. You may use your book in class while writing the essay but prepare your quotes and page numbers beforehand.
- \*No specific length requirement but your essay needs to be long enough to fully support your thesis
- \*Correct spelling, grammar and essay construction.