Honors Modern World History
Summer 2019 Assignment

Students are asked to read Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi. This book is an action-packed historical narrative that follows the flight of a 13 year old peasant boy across 14th century England. The text reveals a great sense of what life was like for many Europeans and shows injustices present in this time of feudalism.

While reading, students are asked to pay particular attention to four specific themes in the book. These four themes of religion, power, social classes, and poverty are present throughout the entire novel. We will be exploring the role of each in the Crispin novel as well as its role and significance in life for Europeans during the Middle Ages.

Students should read the novel with these four themes in mind and take notes on what they learn about each theme. (For example-religion: What role does it play in day-to-day life for the characters? Who practices this religion in the novel? What power or influence does this religion have on the characters?). This note-taking can be done in whatever form you prefer. If you purchase the book, then highlighting, marking up the text, and making notes in the margins might be preferable. If you borrow the book or use the e-book, then taking notes on the four themes could be
done in a notebook you plan to use for class. Whatever method is used, it should be brought to class when the school year begins.

Students will be given an **in-class written assessment based on these four themes**. Students will be allowed to use any form of notes they have taken while reading the novel. This assignment will take place during the first week of school. Please note, this will not be given the very first time we meet for class. Once we meet, a specific date for the assessment will be given to the class. This assessment will count as 10% of the first term grade.

My hope is that this novel will help create a rich image of what life was like for Europeans during the 14th century. This will be helpful for students as we begin the school year with discussion and study of Medieval man. Good luck with your reading and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year!