

ENGLISH 12: Summer Reading 2020

Directions: To keep your minds sharp over the summer, the English Department has chosen one book that we think is well-written and thought-provoking. We look for non-fiction reads that are current, engaging, and that we hope will spark conversations (and maybe even further reading or action). You might take notes as you read to hone your note-taking strategies (see below for questions for reading and reflection). Please read to be prepared for graded work on the summer reading text. We will have discussions and written work based on this text in the fall. This will be a portion of your first quarter grade.

Climate: A New Story
Charles Eisenstein (2018)



“This book is brave enough, vulnerable enough, insightful enough to activate a truth buried deep within all of our hearts: that the planetary crisis we face today can only be transformed by a revolution of love. It calls each of us to break with our patterns of war thinking and realize our interconnectedness with all life on Earth.”
—Jodie Evans, cofounder of Code Pink

This text is also available to read online at <https://charleseisenstein.org/books/climate-a-new-story/>

Questions for Thinking and Discussing: You will be asked these questions or questions like them during the first couple weeks of class. Consider them as you read; you may want to take notes or prepare responses (not required).

1. Identify startling figures or statistics that the author uses to support a point. What is compelling about this example?
2. Identify a section, discussion topic, or controversy in the text that you found particularly compelling. What made this compelling? What connection does it have with your own thinking or worldview?
3. Describe the author’s voice and/or style. Do you trust the information presented? Do you find it relevant and compelling? Why or why not?
4. What signs did you see in the text for hope? What warnings or evidence of failure did you see? How did these affect your response to the issues addressed and your response to the text?
5. To what extent do you see yourself getting involved with the issues presented in the text? What “action steps” does the text suggest you can take? Will you do (or have you done) any of them?
6. You have three sentences to describe the message of this book to the St. Mary’s community. What should your peers know about it?