

Honors Term 2 Outside Reading Candice Millard's *Destiny of the Republic*

In 2011, journalist and writer Candice Millard wrote *Destiny of the Republic*, a book that looks at the very brief presidency of James Garfield. Garfield served less than half a year as president, and the book details the circumstances around his assassination. In addition, Millard examines a number of converging issues of the era: political corruption and machinations, technological innovations, medical practices, civil rights, and more. The multiple threads, including the treatment of Garfield's assassin, Charles Guiteau, are quite compelling, and we hope you'll enjoy this as your outside reading book for Term 2. It is imperative, though, that you budget your time so you are able to read and then analyze each portion of the book as well as possible, without leaving it to the night before.

It is your choice whether you buy or borrow the book -- however, be sure to get it as soon as possible, as your first analysis is due in about 2 weeks.

You are responsible for **TWO different reflections** on the book. Each reflection should be approximately 900-1,000 words, or about **4-5 typed, double-spaced pages**, and each one will cover approximately half of the book, or 150 pages, give or take a few pages.

For each of your responses, choose one of the prompts below to focus on. You do not have to use the same prompt for each response, though you may choose to do so. We suggest that you start by reading each section, then decide which prompt you have the most to say about for the particular section, and proceed from there. * For your final prompt, you must include a **clear conclusion** for the entire book reading, which does not simply restate the thesis statement.

1. Who had access to power and influence in late 19th century America? How did they gain that power, and how did they use it?
2. Would you say that Garfield's life story is uniquely "American?" Why or why not?
3. How attainable was the American Dream for different people at that time - how much did socioeconomic background, family, race, gender, ethnicity, or other factors determine opportunity?
4. What does the book suggest about openness to innovation during this period?
⇒ What factors hindered innovation/progress? What factors encouraged progress?

Due Dates:

- Monday, 12/21:** Prologue + Part 1: Promise + Part 2: War [Happy Holidays!]
- Thursday, 1/21:** Part 3: Fear + Part 4: Tortured for the Republic + Epilogue [Happy end of term!]

Each response will be worth 75 points. Each response will be assessed according to your **thesis, use of evidence** from the book, and any **relevant outside information, structure, and writing quality**. See rubric.