

A.P. European History
Required summer reading assignment
Due on the first day of school

Welcome to Allendale Columbia's A.P. European History course and its first reading and writing assignment. You must read *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, by Ross King, and answer the following questions. This will give you a good sense of life in Renaissance Italy, the starting point of our course.

For those of you who did not take History 10, you must also read the sections on Europe from the Renaissance to the present found in the school textbook, *World History*. This will give you a foundation upon which to build when you tackle the material in the college textbook that you will be reading next year.

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling
Reading Guide

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling, by Ross King, tells the story of the painting of the frescoes in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, and it provides the reader with a vivid picture of life in the Renaissance. There is also an excellent internet site with depictions of the Sistine Chapel at: http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/CSN/CSN_Main.html Take some time to look thoughtfully at these reproductions as you read *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*.

The following questions are intended to facilitate your understanding of the book and the Renaissance period. Copy the questions to your computer and type your answers to them; these must be turned in on the first day of school. **Your answers should be brief, usually one or two sentences per question.** In many cases, I am looking for your response to the reading more than a particular "right" answer.

1 The Summons

What is striking (interesting/noteworthy) about Michelangelo?
What is striking (interesting/noteworthy) about Pope Julius II?

2 The Conspiracy

Describe the physical state of Renaissance Rome.
What was challenging about the task of frescoing the Sistine Chapel?

3 The Warrior Pope

What does this chapter tell the reader about the Roman Catholic Church in the 15th and 16th centuries?

4 Penance

What was involved in casting a bronze statue?

What does this tell you about Michelangelo and other Renaissance artists?

5 Painting in the Wet

Describe the process of fresco painting.

What did Michelangelo have to do with the Sistine before he could paint?

6 The Design

Who influenced Michelangelo's design for the Sistine ceiling?

In what ways did they do this?

7 The Assistants

Describe Michelangelo's assistants.

Why were they important?

8 The House of Buonarroti

Describe Michelangelo's family "baggage."

9 The Fountains of the Great Deep

What were some of the difficulties involved in painting the fresco?

Who was Savonarola?

What was his influence on Michelangelo?

10 Competition

Who was Raffaello Santi ("Raphael"), and in what sense was he Michelangelo's competitor?

11 A Great Quandry

Describe some problems Michelangelo encountered while painting the Sistine Chapel.

12 The Flaying of Marsyas

What does this chapter teach about Renaissance painting?

13 True Colors

Why did Michelangelo use very bright colors?
How were pigments produced?

14 He Shall Build the Temple of the Lord

Describe Pope Julius's political goals.
How was Julius honored in the Sistine Chapel paintings?

15 Family Business

Why did Renaissance artists paint nudes?
How did Michelangelo study the human body?

16 Laocoön

How were ancient works important for Michelangelo?
What physical problems did Michelangelo have while painting the Sistine Chapel?

17 The Golden Age

What were sibyls, and why were they included in the Sistine Chapel frescoes?
What did Egidio expect from Julius II?

18 The School of Athens

How did Michelangelo and Raphael differ?
What was *The School of Athens*?

19 Forbidden Fruit

What does this chapter tell the reader about Renaissance society?

20 The Barbarous Multitudes

How did political events influence Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine Chapel?

21 Bologna Redux

Why did Luther go to Rome?
What did he think of it?

22 The World's Game

What does Pope Julius's activity suggest about the Roman Catholic Church?

23 A New and Wonderful Manner of Painting

What was the response to the unveiling of the first half of the Sistine ceiling?
Contrast the styles of Michelangelo and Raphael.

24 The First and Supreme Creator

How did Michelangelo's style change between the first and second parts of the ceiling?
Why?
What did you find noteworthy about Michelangelo's representation of God?

25 The Expulsion of Heliodorus

What was Raphael's political message in *The Expulsion of Heliodorus*?

26 The Monster of Ravenna

27 Many Strange Forms

28 The Armor of Faith and the Sword of Light

How did political events threaten Michelangelo's art?

29 Il Pensieroso

What was remarkable about the last Genesis scene Michelangelo painted in the Sistine Chapel?

30 In Evil Plight

What happened to Florence?

What does this tell you about Renaissance politics?

31 Final Touches

Epilogue The Language of the Gods

What was the pope's response to the final unveiling of the ceiling?

Summary

What in this book did you find most surprising and/or interesting?