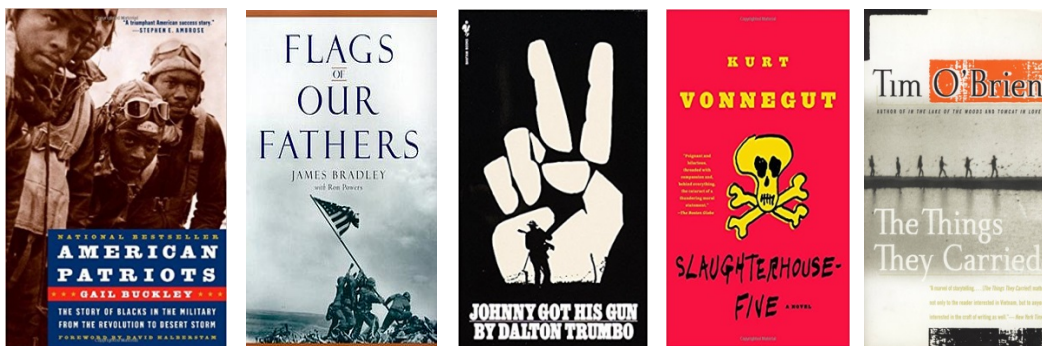




The University of Texas at Austin OnRamps

Summer Reading – 2018 – 2019



Select one of the following five novels to read for Summer Reading and be prepared to discuss this book and to turn in a written assignment in the first week of school. These five novels all cover a variety of topics related to war and will lead into specific activities and issues we will cover in the first 6-weeks of the course.

Novel Selections:

- *American Patriots: The Story of Blacks in the Military from the Revolution to Desert Storm* by Gail Lumet Buckley
- *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley
- *Johnny Got His Gun* by Dalton Trumbo
- *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Assignment #1:

Select three important passages – sections - from your book that you will be able to discuss and share with the class. Be able to explain why you chose these passages and how they are significant to the text.

Assignment #2:

Based on your reading of your chosen novel, write a one-page, double-spaced paper for each of the following questions –

- a. Discuss the cultural/historical context of the novel.
- b. What are the main controversies in your novel?
- c. How do the characters make arguments to persuade others?
- d. How are the novel's themes and social commentary still just as pertinent and meaningful today as they were when they were published?

Put all of your responses in one Word document. EACH of your four responses must be supported with at least two pieces of correctly cited textual evidence – MLA 8.