AP Art History Summer Assignment:
#1. Reading/ Listening/ Reflection
A History of the World in 100 objects

A 100 part series by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, exploring world history from two million years ago to the present.

Companion BBC website
http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/

Explore the 100 objects- listen to the audio- download the podcasts
http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/exploreraltflash/?extratag=137&tag=&extratype=usertype&extrafilter=usertype

The project page at the British Museum
http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/a_history_of_the_world.aspx
**AP Art History Summer Assignment:**  
**Reading/ Listening/ Reflection**

This summer you are to read and/or listen to the chapters on the following artworks:  
Introduction: Signals from the Past pgs. xv-xxvi  
1. Mummy of Hornedjitef, pgs 3-8  
4. Swimming Reindeer, pgs. 19-25  
9. Maya Maize God Statue, pgs. 49-54  
12. Standard of Ur, pgs. 69-77  
15. Early Writing Tablet, pgs. 91-94  
16. Flood Tablet, pgs. 97-101  
27. Parthenon Sculpture: Centaur and Lapith, pgs. 171-176  
29. Olmec Stone Mask, pgs. 183-189  
33. Rosetta Stone, pgs. 209-214  
35. Head of Augustus pgs. 221-226  
41. Seated Buddha from Gandhara, pgs. 265-268  
51. Maya Relief of Royal Blood-letting, pgs. 327-332  
59. Borobudur Buddha Head, pgs. 379-384  
64. The David Vases, pgs. 411-415  
66. Holy Thorn Reliquary, pgs. 425-430  
68. Shiva and Parvati Sculpture, pgs. 437-442  
70. Hoa Hakananai’a Easter Island Statue, pgs. 449-455  
77. Benin Plaque: The Oba with Europeans, pgs. 497-502  
87. Hawaiian Feather Helmet, pgs. 567-571  
93. Hokusai’s *The Great Wave*, pgs. 606-612  

Each chapter includes an illustration of the work being discussed. Each chapter is quite brief; only around 4-5 pgs. of text. All of the works are related to material we will be studying in AP Art History.

**Written assignment:**  
Many of these works communicate ideas about power and authority. Choose 2 works that you learned about and write a brief (2 pgs.) compare and contrast essay addressing the question, “How does each work of art convey that particular culture’s notion of what constitutes power and authority?” How do the material and/or art-making process used contribute to a message of power?
**AP Art History Summer Assignment:**

#2. Reading/ Reflection

- *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon* by [Mark Doty](#)
  Beacon, 72 pgs.

Mark Doty explores the practice of highly descriptive writing in a beautiful little essay, *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*. Doty specializes in ekphrasis. The word once meant the description of a work of visual art within a poem, but has come to mean poetic description more generally.

Mark Doty's prose has been hailed as "tempered and tough, sorrowing and serene" (The New York Times Book Review) and "achingly beautiful" (The Boston Globe). In *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon* he offers a stunning exploration of our attachment to ordinary things-how we invest objects with real human value.

**AP Art History Assignment:** Read the book!
We will be doing a class exercise with this in the fall.