



The Catholic High School of Baltimore Summer Reading List

Teacher's Name: _____ Colleen Guler _____

School Year: 2017- 2018 Grade Level: _____ 9 _____

Course No.: _____ 211, 212, 213 _____ Course Name: _____ World Civilization _____

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA): _____ Honors, CP, CPA _____

Reading: *Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age In Palestine* by Ibtisam Barakat.

ISBN-13: 978-0374302511

This book can be found in local libraries, and is available in paperback, hardback or e-book from Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Assignment: *Balcony on the Moon* Discussion Questions

The author, Ibtisam Barakat, grew up in the Occupied Territory of Israel. At one point, that area was called Palestine. Today, it is an area of conflict because both Palestinians and Israelis claim the land as their own. The author and her family lived as internally displaced persons, similar to refugees. Growing up in such circumstances can be difficult. Thriving in such circumstances is even more difficult. While the Palestinian situation is constant as a background to the story, it is still a story of the teenage years of Ibtisam Barakat. After reading the book, you will read a short background on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Then, answer the following questions in complete sentences, preferably typed. It is worth 45 points. The discussion questions will be due your first week of classes. Come to school prepared to discuss the book and the author's efforts toward increasing education and human rights. (Note: There are more questions on the next page.)

1. Read a one-page summary of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in Britannica online by following the link below. If you need to add a username it is **team**, and password is **cubs**. If the link does not open immediately to the Arab-Israeli Wars, then follow the steps indicated below the link.

<http://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Arab-Israeli-wars/275102>

- At the Britannica School screen, choose the MIDDLE and type Palestine into the search window.
- Scroll down to Arab-Israeli Wars
- Read the article and use it to answer the following question.

In the map provided in the article, note the Jewish State and Palestinian State as of the UN Plan in 1947. Then, open *Balcony on the Moon* to the map at the beginning of the book. What differences do you notice in the two maps? What is the reason for the differences? (5 points)

A Quality Secondary Education in the Franciscan Tradition

2800 Edison Highway ~ Baltimore, Maryland 21213 ~ 410.732.6200 ~ www.thecatholichighschool.org



2. List and explain three situations from the book that are common to teenagers everywhere (especially to females!). (10 points)
3. List and explain three situations that are specific to a teenager living in an **occupied territory**. (10 points)
4. Choose one event from the story – either one from the lists above, or a separate one, and explain why it was so important to Ibtisam as she was growing up, or how it helps explain family relations. (5 points)
5. What is one event from Ibtisam’s experiences that you related to most? Why? (5 points)
6. What role does education play in the story? Explain the role for Ibtisam, her mother, her friend Wafa (whose mother died), or her brother Muhammad. (5 points)
7. Ibtisam learned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (in the chapter titled, “Daring”). How does learning that she has rights impact her? What decisions does she make based on those rights? (5 points)