

**The Potomac School, Upper School History  
Modern World History Summer Reading**

**Book**

*Revolution*, by Jennifer Donnelly

**Instructions:**

While reading *Revolution*, take notes on the guiding questions below. Feel free to make notes on anything else you find to be particularly interesting in the book. Your written notes and annotations do not need to be exhaustive, but they should provide quick access to specific incidents and passages in the book that will be relevant to topics we will discuss at the beginning of the school year in the fall. *There will be a writing assignment early in the year based on this book*, so any notes you take should include page numbers so that you can point to specific passages when supporting your points.

1. Identify some of the basic narrative structures of the book.
  - a. Who are the protagonists of this book? Which characters are the antagonists? What are some examples of incidents in the book that support these characterizations?
  - b. What are the causes of conflict?
2. Identify all the main characters in *Revolution* and make a list of them. For each character, answer the following:
  - a. What are the personal and/or academic issues he or she is facing?
  - b. What relationship does this character have to the protagonist?  
(You should make a list of the main characters in Andi's and Alex's lives. )
  - c. How does the character support or have conflicts with the protagonists?
  - d. How does the character change over the course of the narrative, if he or she changes?
  - e. Who do believe has the greatest impact on Andi? Why?
3. In the novel, Andi discovers a diary that dates to the French Revolution, and becomes obsessed with the plight of the young writer. Draw parallels between Andi's "personal revolution" and the French Revolution.
4. As you read, make a list of the historical events Alex refers to in her diary. Briefly describe the events and Alex's reaction to them.
5. What was life like in Paris in the 1790s? 2011? Be sure to focus on the *daily lives* of people when you answer this question. What do they eat? Where do they go? What do they do for entertainment? What are their greatest concerns?
6. Beyond the book: The French Revolution is generally viewed as a crucial set of historical events. Once you are familiar with the incidents from the book, use the internet to explore different perspectives on the French Revolution. Make notes on these.