

11TH GRADE REQUIRED HISTORY SUMMER READING
2019 Accelerated

1. *A Man For All Seasons*, by Robert Bolt.
2. Selection from *A World Lit Only by Fire* by William Manchester ([see PDF on a separate link](#))

A Man For All Seasons is a short play about the conflict between Sir Thomas More and King Henry VIII that was part of the English Reformation. Please also read Bolt's preface to his play in order to get some historical background for the events described. After you read the play, read the section from *A World Lit Only by Fire* an account of the same events written by a historian. Take detailed notes on the questions below using active reading. Note page numbers of important sections or passages for when you reference the play during discussion and for the in-class writing assignment on the book that will take place during the first cycle of school.

1. Based on both the preface to the play and the William Manchester reading, how did Henry VIII come to marry Catherine of Aragon? Why did he want a divorce? Why was it not granted?
2. Pick two pairs of characters, besides Henry and More, who have a conflict with each other in the play and explain the conflict.
3. In Act I, More comments, "A dispensation was granted so that the King might marry Queen Catherine, for state reasons. Now are we to ask the Pope to—dispense with his dispensation also for state reasons?" Relate this quotation to the problems of church and state as described in the play.
4. Compare the characters of Alice and Margaret. In what ways did each influence More?
5. Note the various parts of the play where Machiavelli is referenced. What do the various characters make of his philosophy? What is the relevance to the play as a whole?
6. What actions or inactions put More in conflict with Henry VIII and his advisors?
7. In what ways did More's decision affect his family?
8. Why did More believe the law would protect him? Why didn't it?
9. For Bolt, what was the significance of Henry VIII's conflict with the Church? Compare his portrayal with that from the William Manchester reading.